

FIRSTGEN FELLOWS

First Generation Civil Rights Fellowship Program Overview

The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (Lawyers' Committee) launched the First Generation Civil Rights Fellowship (FirstGEN) program during the summer of 2013, to coincide with the Lawyers' Committee's 50th anniversary. Shortly after, the Washington, D.C. office of the National Immigration Law Center (NILC) and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) agreed to become FirstGEN partnering organizations.

FirstGEN is a ten-week summer program for undergraduate students who are the first in their immediate families to attend an institution of higher education and who are passionate about pursuing careers in social justice. Fellows gain hands-on experience working on civil rights matters as full time Public Policy & Social Justice interns while also participating in a parallel training program. FirstGEN creates a greater community of advocates by linking emerging leaders with existing ones and by creating a FirstGEN alumni network. Each fellow receives a \$1,000 stipend.

FirstGEN is a Lawyers' Committee, NILC and CLINIC collaborative program, with the Lawyers' Committee serving as program lead. Each organization will host two fellows during the summer of 2014 and all six fellows will participate in a weekly advocacy training program.

Guest Speaker Sessions and Trainings

- Weekly sessions with leading advocates on topics such as:
 - What does it mean to be First Generation in a professional field?
 - 1960s (Freedom Riders) v. modern civil rights movements (Muslim-American, Asian-American rights).
 - Mass incarceration and over-criminalization.
 - Low-wage worker and guestworker rights.
 - Race and the media, including social media advocacy.
 - Leading locally on voting rights.
- Public interest leadership strategies and professional development trainings on:
 - The intersection of policy and state/local issue-based advocacy.
 - Developing campaign strategies to support and sustain public policy & organizing efforts.
 - Public interest and public policy advocacy fields overview, as well as career mapping strategies and keys to professional success.
 - Fundraising 101 and community organizing for the social justice community.

Fellowship Structure

- Fellows placed at the Lawyers' Committee will be supervised by Public Policy Director Tanya Clay House.
- Fellows placed at NILC will be supervised by D.C. Office Director Don Lyster.
- Fellows placed at CLINIC will be supervised by Legalization Program Director Michelle Sardone.
- Fellows will have the opportunity to meet with D.C. based civil rights leaders from the Hill, the non-profit sector and other social justice organizations.
- Fellows will receive leadership, advocacy and career development training.
- Alejandro T. Reyes, Counsel with the Lawyers' Committee, serves as the FirstGEN program facilitator and leads the training program.

"Participating in the FirstGEN Fellowship at the Lawyers' Committee this summer was the best choice I could have made. This has truly been a refreshing experience that has rejuvenated my passion for social justice . . ."

-Tania Chairez, FirstGEN Fellow '13

Application Timeline for 2014

- Applications are accepted through January 21, 2014.
- Finalists will be contacted on or before February 28, 2014.
- Six Fellows will be selected anywhere from March to April of 2014.
- Ten-week summer Fellowship commences approximately during the first week of June, 2014.
- To view the complete FirstGEN application materials click [here](#).



If you have any questions please email us at:
firstgenfellows@lawyerscommittee.org

To apply, click [here](#).

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- Gain on the Hill experience.
- Take part in an intensive training program.
- Meet with leading advocates.
- Become part of the FirstGEN network.
- Receive a \$1,000 stipend.

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