

**University of Kansas School of Law
Douglas County Legal Diversity Fellowship**

**Program Description
Fall 2025 - Spring 2026**

Program Description:

The Douglas County Legal Diversity Fellowship (DCLDF) is a yearlong paid fellowship for KU Law students who are committed to diversity in the practice of law to do legal work for both a private and public employer in Douglas County, Kansas. Fellows will work 10-hour weeks for two semesters of their 2L or 3L year under the direct supervision of a practicing attorney. Students will be paid at the beginning of each semester for their work; students may alternatively opt to earn course credit for their work at a public employer instead.

The Fellowship will consist of four components:

1. A one-semester (10 weeks) work experience in an approved placement with a private Douglas County employer.
2. A one-semester (10 weeks) work experience in an approved placement with a public Douglas County employer.
3. Periodic participation in mentoring and professionalism events hosted by the Judge Hugh Means American Inn of Court, the Douglas County Bar Association, and program sponsors.
4. Attendance at a fall orientation and occasional check-in meetings with the Committee.

Participation in the Fellowship will provide students the following lawyering skills:

- Observing and learning from practicing attorneys and legal staff.
- Completing substantive legal research and writing projects and receiving meaningful feedback.
- Engaging with the legal community of Douglas County to begin developing an attorney network.
- Developing professional skills by working in an office environment.

Applicants:

Students must have completed 29 credits of law school and be in academic good standing.

The Fellowship is intended to support members of groups that are historically underrepresented in the legal profession. All students are welcome to apply. The Committee may consider ethnic and racial background, cultural background, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, first-generation college or law student, disability, tribal membership, and international background and experience.

Compensation:

The Fellowship is a fall semester and spring semester commitment. Per the ABA rules, you may seek course credit or payment for working at a nonprofit or governmental entity. You may only be paid (no course credit) for your work at a private law firm.

Students will be paid a \$2,000 stipend at the beginning of each semester for their work, totaling \$4,000 for the Fellowship. However, if you choose to receive course credit for your time with the public employer, instead of \$2,000, you'll enroll in a Field Placement through Prof. Jewell, which we can help facilitate. You may earn one credit hour per 42.5 hours of work.

Application:

Students must fill out an application and participate in an interview with the Fellowship Committee. Applications for the 2025-2026 school year must be submitted by **April 4, 2025**.

Conflicts:

The placement committee will take students' interests, sponsor needs, and other precautions into consideration to avoid conflicts of interest. However, conflicts of interest may arise for law students. To prevent conflicts, you must list all prior and current employment on your resume. Please also provide the committee with any preferences you have, such as whether you are seeking experience in a criminal or civil practice. Your preferences will be considered and accommodated whenever possible. Conflicts will also be discussed at orientation.

Contacts:

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