

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION/ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION  
Public Interest Law Fellowship Program (PILFP)**

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**I. Purpose**

The purpose for the establishment and maintenance of the Allegheny County Bar Association/Allegheny County Bar Foundation Public Interest Law Fellowship Program (PILFP) (“the Program”) is to strengthen public legal services in Allegheny County by supporting the recruitment and retention of the most qualified attorney advocates. The program will provide financial assistance to attorneys working in Allegheny County for eligible legal service organizations.

The Public Interest Law Fellowship Program Committee of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation (“the Committee”) will provide stipends to eligible attorneys who have shown exemplary performance and commitment in their fields of law. These awards may be recurring or non-recurring and may be issued as funds are available.

**II. Procedures**

The Committee shall make stipends in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this document. The Committee will advertise the availability of funds and prescribe application forms for stipends not less than once per fiscal year to eligible applicants. The Committee shall have complete discretion to determine stipend amounts, qualifications, priorities, and all particulars of the stipend consistent with this document. It is recommended that the Committee shall advertise and accept applications from July 1 to August 16.

**III. Eligibility**

Stipends will be issued only to eligible applicants or participants. An “eligible applicant” must meet and demonstrate the following requirements:

- (1) Applicant must be an “Active” member of the ACBA;
- (2) Applicant must be employed full-time by an ACBA recognized public interest Legal Services Agency;
- (3) Applicant must commit to an additional year of full-time employment at respective public interest legal service agency if he/she receives stipend;
- (4) Applicant must be admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as an attorney or otherwise qualified under Pennsylvania Bar Admission Rule 311 (Attorney Participants in Defender or Legal Service Programs);

- (5) Applicant must submit follow-up report to the Committee indicating any changes in employment or financial status.

For purposes of this Program, a "Legal Services Agency" shall have the same meaning as ACBA's membership dues requirements, and shall include, but is not limited to, the following organizations: Juvenile Court Project, KidsVoice, Neighborhood Legal Services Association, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Office of Conflict Counsel, and Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.

Applicants agree to submit documentation to confirm their eligibility for receipt of any stipend.

#### **IV. Awards**

The Program benefit will be between \$1,000.00 and \$5,000.00 per year. In its discretion, the Committee may award lesser or greater amounts if such would be in best interests of the Program.

In making any award, the Committee shall consider whether the applicant is eligible for or receiving monies from any other fellowship or any loan repayment program.

Continued benefits are subject to the fund availability and allocation of future funding for the Program. The Committee does not guarantee recurring funding to any member, applicant, or participant.

#### **V. Award Selection**

In making awards, the Committee shall weigh the applicant's:

- (1) Annual income from all sources;
- (2) Annual financial obligations, including qualified educational loan payments, outstanding qualified educational loan principal, qualified educational loan repayment terms and length;
- (3) Other assets;
- (4) Service to the community of Allegheny County, to the profession, to the bar, and to the association;
- (5) Applicant's written statement of qualifications, community service, and personal need (500 words or less); and
- (6) Written recommendation from applicant's direct supervisor or agency director attesting to applicant's merit.

The Committee shall not make payments for existing loan obligations or indebtedness.

## **VI. Tax Obligations**

All stipend recipients will agree to assume responsibility for any tax obligation that may result from the issuance of a stipend. The Committee in its discretion may issue the recipient an IRS Form 1099 evidencing the stipend award.

## **VII. Cooperation**

The Committee will require the participant's cooperation in promoting the purposes of the Program, in increasing awareness of the program to the bar and to the public, and in increasing the Program's financial ability to award stipends.

## **VIII. Modification**

The Committee reserves the right, privilege and ability to modify the terms and conditions of the Program without prior notice to members, applicants, or participants.

### **Certification**

*I certify that I have read the PILFP Program Overview and agree to be bound by the obligations set forth in the Overview.*

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Applicant Signature

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Date