

The AWA Foundation Pro Bono Fellowship Program

For over two decades, the Association of Women Attorneys Foundation ("AWAF" or "Foundation") has provided scholarships to exceptional second and third year female law students in Houston. Inspired by the personal stories of triumph and perseverance of the scholarship recipients, the Foundation was compelled to do more. In its inaugural year of 2017-2018, the Foundation partnered with Houston Volunteer Lawyers and the Tahirih Justice Center to create the AWA Foundation Pro Bono Fellowship program. The program gave two extraordinary female attorneys the chance to develop their technical legal skills in their first year of practice and give back to their community through pro bono service. Last year, we were pleased to extend this opportunity to two additional female lawyers in partnership with the Harris County District Attorney's Office and Kids in Need of Defense (KIND). As you can see, the program is off to a terrific start and we are now working hard to fund the 2019-2020 pro bono fellowships to ensure the sustainability of the program for years to come. We need your help to do more for these incredible women! [Click here to view one of their stories.](#)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The AWAF Pro Bono Fellowship is a full-time paid attorney position with one of AWAF's Fellowship partners, including the Houston Volunteer Lawyers, the Tahirih Justice Center, and Kids in Need of Defense (KIND). The Harris County District Attorney's Office has partnered with the AWAF to offer a full-time paid internship in its Sex Crimes Division. Each organization will interview and select one fellow from the AWAF 2019 3L scholarship applicants who indicate an interest in dedicating their first year of practice (September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020) to pro bono service.

The Fellows will serve the community by providing free legal service to those in need and in return receive a \$60,000 salary with benefits. The total cost to fund each pro bono fellowship is \$80,000 per Fellow. The Harris County District Attorney's Office Intern will receive full-time compensation funded by and subject to the discretion of the Office.

PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS

A corporate sponsorship supporting this pro bono fellowship program provides your firm the benefit of helping a deserving new lawyer acquire the range of skills necessary to launch a successful practice while making a real difference in the lives of people who would not otherwise have access to legal services.

ABOUT US

The Association for Women Attorneys Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing scholarships and fellowships to outstanding female law students in Houston.

AWAF Pro Bono Fellowship Partners



OFFICE OF THE HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INTERNSHIP

Inspired by AWAF's mission to provide opportunities for female law students, the Harris County District Attorney's Office will select two third-year AWAF applicants to fill the Office's newly-named AWAF Internship position in its Sex Crimes Division. The AWAF Intern will have the opportunity to work directly with a multidisciplinary team engaged in the investigation and prosecution of sexual offenders. Responsibilities will include assisting prosecutors with interviewing victims, trial preparation, and plea negotiations. We are proud to partner with District Attorney Kim Ogg and the Harris County District Attorney's Office.



TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER

Fellows will work on matters such as gender-based asylum, Violence against Women's Act Petitions, T Visas (for survivors of trafficking), U Visas (for survivors of certain types of crimes on U.S. soil), and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (for abused, abandoned, or neglected children).



HOUSTON VOLUNTEER LAWYERS

Fellows will have the opportunity to assist with legal matters involving family law, guardianship, estate planning, tax disputes with the IRS, landlord/tenant disputes, homeownership, consumer law, and bankruptcy.



KIDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE

Fellows will represent unaccompanied immigrant children who have been abused, abandoned or neglected, fled gender-based or gang-based violence, or have suffered trauma. The Fellows will provide legal representation to Houston children who need legal assistance in obtaining Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, asylum T, and/or U visas.

Pro Bono Fellowship Sponsorship Opportunities

CHARTER SPONSOR- \$25,000

- Exclusive Naming Rights Ex: "The AWAF [Your Firm Name Here] Pro Bono Fellowship benefitting Houston Volunteer Lawyers."
- Diamond level table seating (a \$5,000 value) and special recognition at the AWAF Premier Women In Law Luncheon on March 20, 2019
- Recognition as a sponsor on all AWAF Pro Bono Fellowship promotional material
- Special invitation to planned networking events

CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS- \$10,000

- Recognition as a sponsor on all AWAF Pro Bono Fellowship promotional material
- Special invitation to planned networking events

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS- \$5,000

- Recognition as a sponsor on all AWAF Pro Bono Fellowship promotional material

Congratulations to our 2018-2019 AWAF Intern and Fellows!

The AWAF Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP Pro Bono Fellowship Benefitting Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)



CARMEN PORTILLO

Carmen Portillo graduated from Thurgood Marshall School of Law in May 2018 and will begin her fellowship with KIND on September 4, 2018.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve children who are in need of representation as they face removal proceedings. I have always imagined working towards helping children in my community achieve a better future. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, I am able to help people in my community and live my dream at the same time."

The AWAF Vinson & Elkins LLP Pro Bono Fellowship Benefitting the Houston Volunteer Lawyers



CHERIKA EDWARDS

Cherika Edwards graduated from Thurgood Marshall School of Law in May 2018 and will begin her fellowship with Houston Volunteer Lawyers on September 1, 2018.

"I am blessed to be given the opportunity to work with Houston Volunteer Lawyers to provide legal assistance to individuals who cannot afford to speak for themselves. Thank you to all the sponsors who have provided me with the opportunity to begin my career in the same place that ignited my passion for law. I remember sitting in a pro bono legal office needing help because I could not afford it. To be able to sit on the other side and provide the same legal services I once needed is divine!"

The Harris County District Attorney's Office AWAF Internship



KATHRYN JONES

Kathryn (Katy) Jones graduated from the University of Houston Law Center in May 2018 and will begin her internship with the Harris County District Attorney's Office Sex Crimes Division on September 1, 2018.

"I am honored to have received the inaugural AWAF Internship position with the Harris County District Attorney's Office. I originally made the decision to attend law school to help find justice for survivors of sexual violence, and I cannot wait to begin working with the DA's office to do exactly that. I want to thank all of the sponsors who made it possible for me to spend my first year of legal practice doing work that is so impactful--to me and the community"

The AWAF Katten Munchin Rosenman LLP Pro Bono Fellowship Benefitting Tahirih Justice Center



MARIAH FORTIZ

Mariah Ortiz graduated from Thurgood Marshall School of Law in May 2018 and will begin her fellowship with Tahirih Justice Center on September 4, 2018.

"I am very grateful and honored to have been selected as the fellow for Tahirih. I am excited to begin my legal career working with women and children in the immigrant communities during a time in which they are especially vulnerable. I am thankful to Tahirih for the work they do and for allowing me to be a part of it. I would also like to thank the AWAF and the sponsors for making such a great opportunity available to us!"

AWAF Pro Bono Fellowship Sponsorship Form

Individual/Firm/Company Name _____

commits to sponsor the 2019-2020 AWAF Pro Bono Fellowship as indicated below:

- Charter Sponsor - \$25,000
- Circle of Champions - \$10,000
- Circle of Friends - \$5,000
- Other amount \$ _____
- SUSTAINING SUPPORTER- We will do even more by committing to fund this fellowship for a second year at the sponsorship level indicated above.**

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Commitment must be funded by July 31, 2019

- Will send payment by ___ / ___ / 20 ___
- Make a payment today

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Check (Please make checks payable to Association of Women Attorneys Foundation -Tax I.D. No. 76-0337202)

Credit Card (please circle one)

American Express Discover VISA MasterCard

Cardholder Name: _____

Amount: _____

Card Number: _____

SEC: _____ Exp Date: _____

Signature: _____

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Cisselon Nichols Hurd, *Founding member*
Dana O'Brien, *Founding member*

Pooja Amin, *Chair*
Stephanie Bundage Juvane, *Vice Chair*
Meagan Glover
Ashley Kahn
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Lande Spottswood, *Trustee*

PLEASE MAIL FORM AND CHECKS TO:

Monica Kabad
Service Corporation International
1929 Allen Parkway, 10th Floor
Houston, TX 77019

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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Thank You to Our 2018-19 Pro Bono Fellowship Sponsors!

CHARTER SPONSORS (\$25,000)

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
Katten Munchin Rosenman LLP
Vinson & Elkins LLP

CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS (\$10,000)

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Association of Women Attorneys Foundation
Baker Botts LLP
Blank Rome LLP
CenterPoint Energy
Littler Mendelson P.C.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS (\$5,000)

Association of Women Attorneys
Coffin & Renner LLP
Cindy Diggs
Dana and Pete O'Brien
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Exxon Mobil Corporation
Eversheds Sutherland LLP*
Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP
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* Two-year commitment