

Post Public Interest Fellowship Employment Report: Fellowships Completed in 2021

This report is provided by the Career Development Office to share information about the 52 YLS graduates who completed one or two-year postgraduate public interest fellowships in 2021. The data for this report was compiled from three sources: information provided to CDO by fellowship recipients at the time of their selection, independent research by CDO, and responses from fellows to CDO's Post-Fellowship Employment Survey. This year, CDO received survey responses from 24 of the 52 fellows.

Fellowship Types

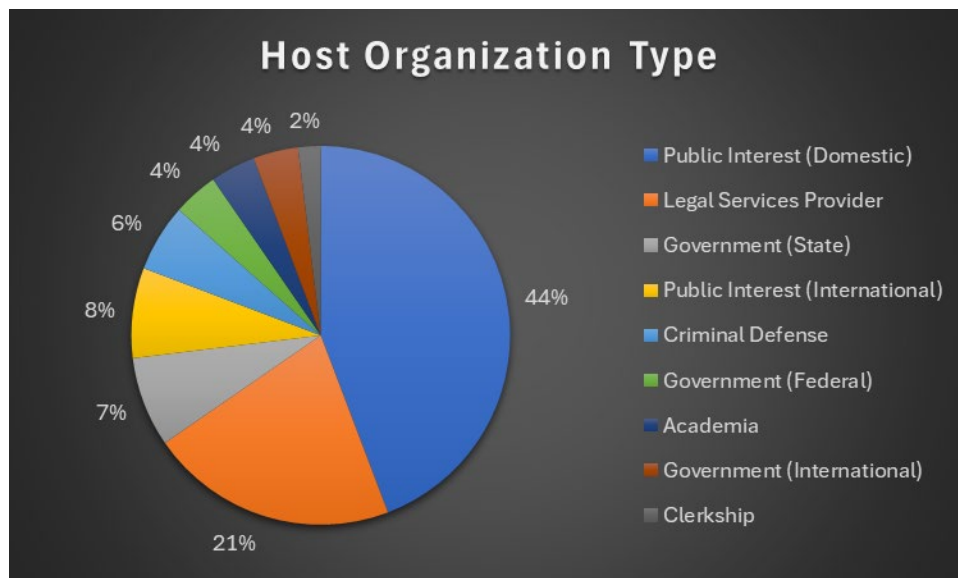
This year saw an increase from previous years in the number of students obtaining external fellowships, with 56% of fellows receiving YLS-funded fellowships and 44% receiving external fellowships.

The 29 YLS fellowships obtained were: Arthur Liman Public Interest Fellowship (10 fellows), Yale Public Interest Fellowship (6), Robert L. Bernstein Fellowship in International Human Rights (4), Yale Law Journal Fellowship (3), Heyman Federal Public Service Fellowship (2), International Court of Justice Fellowship (1), Gruber Fellowship in Global Justice and Women's Rights (1), Permanent Court of Arbitration (1), and Robina Foundation Human Rights Fellowship (1).

The most common external fellowships were the Justice Catalyst Fellowship (7 fellows), the Equal Justice Works Fellowship (6), and the Skadden Fellowship (3). This cohort also obtained the following external fellowships:

- Aryeh Neier Fellowship
- Cochran Fellowship
- Connecticut Bar Foundation's Singer Public Service Fellowship
- Immigrant Justice Corps Fellowship
- Law and Liberty Fellowship
- Reporters Committee Technology and First Amendment Fellowship
- Sabin Center for Climate Change Law Fellowship

These fellows worked for a wide variety of host organization types, with almost half of the fellows working with domestic public interest groups. The following chart depicts the host organization types of this cohort of fellows.



Host Organization Selection

The fellowship survey asked respondents about the selection of their host organizations. Respondents were able to select more than one response, and reported the following: 40% found their host organization through the recommendation of a peer or advisor, 29% relied on independent research, 26% selected based on previous internship or work with the organization, 3% knew of their host organization through a clinic, and 3% found their host organization on a database.

Fellowship Locations

The 52 reported fellows completed their internships all around the world. Most of the fellows were based in the United States, with 23% in New York and another 23% in Washington, DC. U.S.-based fellows also worked in:

California
Illinois
Ohio
Texas

Connecticut
Louisiana
Oregon
Virgin Islands

Georgia
Massachusetts
Tennessee
Virginia

International fellowship locations included The Netherlands, France, Israel, and Germany.

Job Satisfaction

The Fellowship Survey inquired about job satisfaction of fellows. Among fellows who responded to the question, 83% were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their overall fellowship experiences and 96% indicated that they would recommend their placements to future fellows. Below are some positive sentiments shared by fellows:

- *“I got unparalleled exposure to the legislative and administrative policymaking processes.”*
- *“I really got to take ownership of my research project, gaining incredible fact-finding, research, writing, and litigation development skills as well as media experience.”*
- *“Very interesting and impactful work, fantastic workplace, and opportunities for self-direction while also being very supported.”*
- *“My organization is an incredible place to work, with exceptional colleagues, and a vision for advocacy led by impacted persons.”*

Skill Development

Survey respondents were asked to share what skills/qualities they developed as a result of their fellowship. Below is a summary of the responses received organized by skill type.

Legal skills

- Expanded knowledge of practice area
- International and foreign domestic law
- Legal research & writing
- Legislative process
- Litigation & trial skills
- Policy development & writing
- Strategic planning

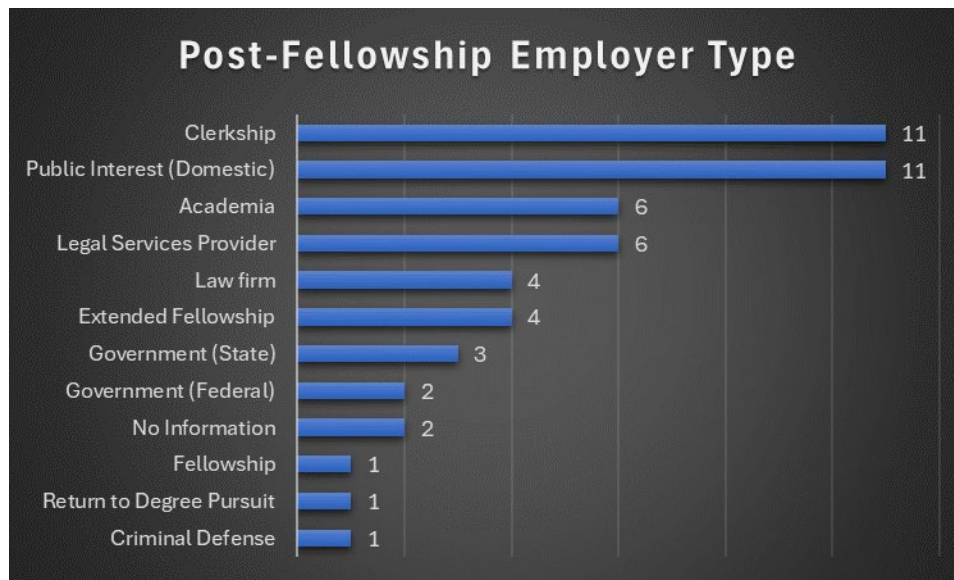
Professional Qualities

- Client management & advocacy
- Collaboration with outside organizations
- Expanded knowledge of legal nonprofit landscape
- Fundraising
- Project management
- Public speaking & press relations
- Staff supervision & management
- Time management & organization

First Post-Fellowship Employment

Based on Fellowship Survey responses and independent research conducted by CDO, roughly 1 in 3 fellows accepted offers to remain with their host organizations upon completion of their fellowships. Four fellows received fellowship extensions to continue their work with their host organizations.

The most common post-fellowship employment choices were domestic public interest organizations and clerkships, with 21% of fellows accepting offers in each area. The following chart shows a full overview of post-fellowship employment choices.



Conclusion

Yale Law School takes great pride in our fellowship offerings, in the success of our graduates on the fellowship market and in the incredible work conducted by fellows during their fellowship year(s). The survey responses summarized here demonstrate the significant value fellowships offer in training new public interest attorneys, and in providing a bridge to practice.

Furthermore, the continued popularity of the Yale Law School fellowships demonstrates that these fellowships provide essential support to YLS graduates pursuing public interest careers.