

Call for Applications 2024-2025 Curtis-Liman Clinical Fellowship at Yale Law School

The Arthur Liman Center for Public Interest Law at Yale Law School invites applications for the Curtis-Liman Clinical Fellowship. The Fellow will spend a year based both at Yale Law School and at the Federal Defender Office in New Haven, Connecticut. The Curtis-Liman Fellow will do research and work on behalf of clients of the FDO and join in teaching through an academic appointment at Yale Law School.

The Fellowship

Established in 2020 to honor Professor Dennis Curtis, a co-founder of Yale Law School's clinical program, the Curtis-Liman Clinical Fellowship focuses on alternatives to incarceration and the impact of fines, fees, and other costs associated with criminal law enforcement. The Fellowship is co-hosted by the Federal Defender Office (FDO) of Connecticut, the Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization (LSO), and the Arthur Liman Center for Public Interest Law (Liman Center), and involves a mix of client representation, clinical supervision, and directed research. The Curtis-Liman Fellow is supervised by attorneys at the FDO, and legal faculty at the LSO and at the Liman Center. At the FDO, the Fellow is assigned a specialized case load, with a focus on individuals subjected to supervision after conviction. This assignment aims to support clients returning from incarceration, identify the costs associated with post-release supervision, and challenge, when needed, any conditions of community release that impose undue burdens or present obstacles to living and working in the community. During the spring semester, the Fellow helps supervise cases in collaboration with the LSO, co-teaches the Liman Workshop seminar, and works with a team of students enrolled in the Liman Center's directed research class.

Since September 2022, the Curtis-Liman Fellowship has worked to develop this project from the ground up through the representation of clients serving terms of supervised release and probation. More than 75% of federal defendants must serve a term of supervised release following a custodial sentence. Conditions of supervised release almost always require court-ordered treatment for the purpose of "rehabilitation." The 2022-2023 Curtis-Liman Fellow developed an inventory of programs that provide substance use and mental health treatment for FDO clients. In collaboration with mitigation specialists and attorneys at the FDO, the Fellow interviewed directors of some of the agencies that provide substance use and mental health treatment for justice-involved individuals. In each interview, the research team asked questions related to the scope of treatment, the referral process, funding for services, client demographics, and client outcomes.

The incoming 2023-2024 Curtis-Liman Fellow will build on this research by continuing data collection and developing trainings and educational materials about the specific challenges that clients with mental health and substance use disorders may face while on supervision. In addition, the Fellow will help build a database of the conditions imposed by federal district court judges on people serving sentences of probation or supervised release.

The 2024-2025 Curtis-Liman Fellow will engage in ongoing client representation and further develop this project to limit the economic burdens and procedural hurdles to obtaining safe and effective services for individuals in need of treatment and other assistance.

Qualifications

The Curtis-Liman Fellow is based at Yale Law School and the Federal Defender's Office of Connecticut, both located in New Haven, Connecticut. As employees of Yale Law School, Fellows receive a competitive salary commensurate with experience and full employment benefits. The position will begin in August 2024 and successful candidates will be required to work on-site.

Applicants should be law school graduates, preferably with post-graduate experience. Individuals who have held other fellowships, including those sponsored by the Liman Center, are eligible to apply. Desired qualifications include:

- experience using law to further the public interest in a variety of settings, including public service organizations, government service, education (including law school clinics), or the private sector;
- knowledge of criminal law, criminal defense, incarceration and its many impacts, and/or social services and treatment provision;
- ability to work with others, listen to communities, clients, colleagues, and potential adversaries, and work creatively;
- demonstrated commitment to social justice and public service;
- interest in working with the Federal Defender Office of Connecticut and assisting clients at various stages of prosecution, incarceration, or release;
- interest in being in relationship to law students, the Liman Center, and YLS clinical programs;

How to Apply

Interested applicants must first contact FDO with application materials by **October 1, 2023**. Individuals seeking to apply should email a cover letter, a resume, a writing sample that demonstrates research skills, a list of references, and a law school transcript to Carly Levenson (carly_levenson@fd.org) and Kelly Barrett (Kelly_barrett@fd.org).

Once FDO has agreed to serve as a host organization, sponsored individuals will be informed about submitting applications for the 2023-2024 Curtis-Liman Fellowship to the Liman Center. The Liman Center will accept applications thereafter; the application closes on **February 3, 2024**.

To learn more, please contact Liman Center Director Jennifer Taylor as well as current or former Curtis-Liman Fellows. The [Liman Center's website](#) contains more information.