



ACLU of Michigan Fellowship Sponsorship

The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan welcomes proposals from recent law graduates, judicial law clerks and other qualified applicants for funded fellowships on cutting edge civil liberties and civil rights issues. Selected applicants will work together with the ACLU of Michigan to develop and submit proposals for national public interest law fellowships, such as the [Skadden, Soros, Equal Justice Works](#), and [Justice Catalyst](#) Fellowships. Selected applicants who are eligible for law-school specific fellowships, such as the [Liman, Harvard Law Review Public Interest Fellowship](#), or [University of Chicago](#) Public Interest Law Fellowships, are encouraged to apply for those as well. Click [here](#) for more information about possible fellowship sources.

With over 30 full-time staff members, the ACLU of Michigan is one of the largest affiliates of the American Civil Liberties Union and a leading civil rights organization within the state. We litigate groundbreaking, high impact, high profile cases addressing a wide range of constitutional issues, including freedom of speech and religion, police misconduct, voting, due process, privacy, poverty, criminal justice, reproductive freedom, education, and the rights of people of color, women, LGBTQ persons, persons with disabilities, immigrants and people who are incarcerated.

We welcome applications with project proposals relating to any civil rights or civil liberties area. Interested applicants should review our [website](#) and [docket](#) for a better understanding of our work. Proposals related to three current priority areas—[reproductive freedom](#), [voting rights](#), and [immigrants' rights](#)—may be most likely to align with our current organizational priorities. Some examples include:

Reproductive freedom

- Eliminating barriers to accessing reproductive healthcare for people of color and Black women.
- Defining and protecting a constitutional right reproductive healthcare under the Michigan Constitution.

Voting rights

- Ensuring access to mail-in/absentee ballots for new and vulnerable voters, as guaranteed by 2018 amendments to the Michigan Constitution.
- Fighting back against potential attempts to undermine free and fair elections by politicizing election inspectors (aka poll workers), particularly in majority-minority precincts and districts.

(A fellow pursuing such a project would also be involved in the ACLU of Michigan's other non-partisan voting rights work during the 2024 election).

Immigrants' rights

- Protecting farmworkers in Michigan who are currently excluded from wage-and-hour and other employment law protections.
- Challenging the state's failure to provide adequate language-access accommodations for people with limited English proficiency.

The list above contains only a few examples of what an applicant can propose. Whatever the topic, we will work with the selected fellowship candidate to develop a proposal that builds on the candidate's interests and skills, ensures appropriate supervision, fits with the ACLU's priorities, and employs strategies most likely to be effective in advancing the project's goals.

As part of the ACLU of Michigan's mission to increase access and opportunity for those individuals and groups who have historically been under-represented and underserved, the ACLU of Michigan is committed to having a diverse workplace. People of color, women, LGBT persons, and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Fellows will work either in Detroit or Grand Rapids with supervision dependent on the location and fellowship project.

Qualifications:

Applicants should have a demonstrated commitment to civil liberties and civil rights, exceptional research and writing skills, and a J.D. degree (or expect one within the next year).

Salary:

This opportunity is not funded by the ACLU of Michigan. The ACLU of Michigan will cooperate with successful applicants to seek fellowship support, and the salary will be based on the terms of the fellowship awarded. For Skadden Fellows, the 2023 salary is \$60,000. For fellowships with lower salaries, the ACLU of Michigan will make up the difference so as to match the Skadden salary. Fellows will also be eligible for the ACLU of Michigan's standard benefits package, including healthcare coverage.

How to Apply:

To be considered for sponsorship, please submit a cover letter that:

- identifies a specific area of interest, specific fellowship project, and goals for what you want to accomplish during the fellowship;
- explains why you want the ACLU of Michigan to host your project; and
- specifies the fellowships for which you would like to apply.

Please append a resume and a writing sample to your cover letter. Applications should be emailed as a single PDF to **fellowship2022@aclumich.org**.

Applicants should also be ready to ask two recommenders to write letters in support of their fellowship applications. Letters of recommendation need not be submitted with your cover letter, but may be required before the ACLU selects a candidate for sponsorship.

In advance of submitting their applications, applicants may seek guidance about whether their area of interest and proposed work fits within the ACLU's priorities and strategies by emailing Monica Andrade at mandrade@aclumich.org. Applications for sponsorship are due July 18, 2022.