

The Gismondi Summer Fellowship Program



Created by Pitt Law alumnus John P. Gismondi, the **Gismondi Certified Law Student Summer Fellowship Program** will sponsor four Summer Fellowship positions to students who have completed their second year of law school at the University of Pittsburgh and are certified to represent clients in accordance with the court rules of Allegheny County. The Gismondi Fellows will have the opportunity to earn real-world experience handling legal matters – including client contact – at public service organizations. In the past, Fellows have worked at Neighborhood Legal Services, KidsVoice and the offices of the county District Attorney and Public Defender.

For ten weeks over the summer, Gismondi Fellows work at public interest organizations representing clients in a variety of legal proceedings.

Am I eligible?

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Completed second year of law school at University of Pittsburgh School of Law
- Eligible to be certified to appear in court pursuant to Pa. Bar Admission Rule 321

How do I apply?

- Applications will be available through PittLawWorks, <https://law-pitt.12twenty.com>

Why should I apply?

In addition to invaluable work experience, Gismondi Fellows are provided with the following:

- Lunch 'n Learn presentations
- Networking and mentorship opportunities
- Professional development

What kind of work will I be doing?

Gismondi Fellows will work alongside public interest attorneys where they will assist low-income clients facing critical legal issues affecting their daily lives, including landlord/tenant, domestic violence, bankruptcy and more.



“My goal in setting up this program was to help law students develop clinic skills and at the same time provide free legal service to folks in need. I am pleased that we are accomplishing both of those goals and that the students seem to like it.”

– John P. Gismondi, Esq.



For more information, visit www.acbf.org.

Testimonials:

“I had the opportunity to represent clients at both MDJ hearings and at arbitration, had extensive interactions with clients every day, and was able to draft letters, motions, and Answers to Complaints. I had done some of this before this internship, but my work this summer made me much more confident and comfortable doing this kind of work. All of the attorneys I worked with were very supportive, helpful, and invested in making this summer a positive learning experience.”

– Danielle Harrington
2021 Gismondi Fellow

“My fellowship experience at the Pro Bono Center added exponentially to my law school education – not only did it provide practical experience such as drafting court documents and conducting legal research, but it allowed me to learn by example from attorneys that I admire and communicate directly with members of my community during a difficult time. I was privileged to work on numerous divorces and Protection from Abuse actions alongside my supervising attorneys. I also had the opportunity to assist a client with their application for a pardon; I was able to get to know the client over the course of the summer and help submit their application for review which was incredibly gratifying. Speaking with these clients allowed me to gain experience in legal research and interact with members of my community in a direct and valuable way.”

– Olivia Hilborn
2021 Gismondi Fellow

from the
**ALLEGHENY COUNTY
BAR FOUNDATION**

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