

LAW SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT



**BRINGING TOGETHER LAW SCHOOLS, PUBLIC
DEFENDER OFFICES, AND TOMORROW'S
CHANGE AGENTS TO TACKLE ONE OF OUR
PROFESSION'S MOST IMPORTANT
CHALLENGES**

WHAT IS GIDEON'S PROMISE?

The criminal justice system is this generation's greatest civil and human rights challenge. Public defenders are the foot soldiers of the movement to address the issues of mass incarceration and mass criminalization. Named after *Gideon v. Wainwright*, the landmark case that guaranteed the right to counsel, Gideon's Promise is building a movement of public defenders, on the front line of this struggle, to drive indigent defense reform. Gideon's Promise works with public defender offices, primarily in the Deep South, to raise the standard of representation for poor people in our nation's most broken systems. Each of our "partner-offices" is led by a chief defender who shares this reform vision and is committed to supporting the next generation of public defenders to usher in change.

WHAT IS THE LAW SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT (LSPP)?

LSPP is a three-year program that provides permanent employment, training/continuing legal education, and support to recent graduates committed to public defense. Those who are selected are guaranteed employment with a Gideon's Promise partner-office within a year and will be financially supported by their respective law schools until their first day of work through a grant, fellowship, and/or stipend. The LSPP gives law graduates a unique opportunity otherwise not available to them: to join a public defender office working to improve criminal justice in areas where the need is greatest and become part of a broader movement to transform indigent defense. We have partnered with law schools from across the country in this effort to bring passionate future public defenders to offices where the need is greatest. Together, we are driving change in our nation's most broken systems. We hope you will join us in this effort!

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Our goal is to groom a generation of public defense leaders in places most in need of reform.

We are not looking for students who want to experience public defense in the South for only a year or two. The LSPP is, therefore, available only to third year law students and recent graduates who:

Demonstrate a strong commitment to public defense;

Are interested in a career in the office beyond the term of the fellowship/grant;

Desire to work in a system where the challenges are greatest; and

Aspire to be part of a larger reform movement



HOW DOES GIDEON'S PROMISE PARTNER WITH LAW SCHOOLS?

The vast majority of our law school partners have committed to funding one or more graduates either by raising the money to fund this initiative or by allocating existing fellowship funding specifically for this program. As long as the school can commit to supporting a graduate for a year, its students are eligible to apply for a permanent position, training, and support, through Gideon's Promise.

The amount of the fellowship is determined by the school. The student must understand that they should not expect any additional financial support from Gideon's Promise or the office in which they are placed until they are moved into a permanent position within the first year of participation.

Some schools have existing fellowship/grant opportunities not dedicated to LSPP. Typically in this situation, interested students must secure a commitment of employment BEFORE they can apply for the fellowship/grant. The extent to which these funding opportunities can be used to support a graduate who wishes to join a Gideon's Promise partner-office and participate in our Core Program, depends on the timing of the school's funding decisions and the requirements of the particular award. For career service professionals who wish to consider placing students in LSPP using an existing fellowship not dedicated to this initiative, please contact Gideon's Promise to discuss how we might make this work.

Because a graduate is more valuable to one of our partner-offices if s/he is able to sit for the July Bar exam, a law school that makes a funding award prior to the latest bar examination deadline for the relevant state has a better chance to place a student through this initiative. Students must be mindful that bar exam registration deadlines vary from state to state. Students should check the deadline for state of the office in which they are interested as well as the timing of the award of the applicable funding source.

HOW DOES A STUDENT APPLY?

Please view the [LSPP page on the Gideon's Promise website](#) to find an updated list of participating offices and law schools.

ROUND 2 APPLICATION PROCESS

We are currently in Round 2 of the LSPP application process. To apply, interested students must complete the LSPP application online and indicate which offices they would like to be considered for placement. Open placements include St. Tammany, Louisiana and the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy.

Please submit your application materials as soon as possible, there is no deadline for Round 2, rather applications are accepted until positions are filled. The earlier applications are submitted, the better your chance will be at securing a placement.

For the application you will be prompted to submit a cover letter/resume, transcript, 3 references, two letters of recommendation, and a writing sample.

The application can be accessed at:
<http://www.gideonspromise.org/programs/lsp>

We will forward materials to offices that students are interested in as we receive them. The office will then conduct interviews and rank applicants.

Based on office recommendations, applicant interest, input from the law school, and other factors, Gideon's Promise will match applicants with offices.

Because of the need to coordinate placements before the earliest bar deadline of our participating offices, we plan to finalize all placements by mid-February 2019. Please note the bar application deadlines for the state where the office you are interested in is located.

July Bar Examination

Registration Dates:

*does not include late registration dates if available, check with the State Bar for filing fees and additional information.

Kentucky
February 1, 2019
(Bar Application Deadline)

Louisiana:
December 1, 2018- February 1, 2019
(Bar Application Deadline)

"I'm just so thankful for the experience and I'm just so happy to have something to share with people that love me and that are going through the struggle with me. It's been so life-changing, and I'm just so grateful" -

Eulalia Sullivan

2018 LSPP Fellow talking about her Core 101 Experience. Ms. Sullivan will be working in Lafayette, Louisiana

Questions?

Email: Info@GideonsPromise.org

