



Law School Partnership Project FAQs

When do applications open?

- We will officially begin accepting applications on Monday August 19th, 2019.
- Keep in mind, there is not a login function for the application. You will need to collect all of your application materials and submit them at one time. You will not be able to start the application and then return later to complete it.
- You may download the Essay Question .pdf on the LSPP website page so that you can review the essay questions prior to starting the application.

What do I need to submit for the application?

- The application asks for basic personal information about you (i.e., law school, graduation date, birthday, etc.)
- There are essay questions that you must respond to for the application, and we read them closely so please take your time in answering them. This is one of the key parts of the application that help us identify people who are a good fit for joining the Gideon's Promise movement.
- Two letters of recommendation
- Three references
- Writing sample
- Unofficial Law School Transcript
- Partner office rankings

When do applications close?

- This year's LSPP applications will close on Friday October 11, 2019. We recognize that this deadline is early in the semester, so we encourage you to begin reviewing the application requirements and determining the offices you are interested in early in the process.

How do I know what offices are participating?

- The LSPP website page lists all of the participating offices that you may rank for consideration.
- We provide “Partner Office Profiles” for you to gain more information about offices and to inform your rankings. If there is an office you are interested in learning more about, you can email us at elizabeth@gideonspromise.org to tell us what offices you would like to connect with and we will put you in touch with a liaison from that office who can answer your questions.

How do I rank offices on my application?

- You will have the opportunity to rank offices in order of interest, or simply state that you are open to being placed anywhere. Keep in mind, some offices are much more competitive than others based on the number of applicants who highly-rank that office (these tend to be offices in more urban areas). Please keep this in mind when making your rankings.
- Rankings are all about personal preference. While you will make an initial ranking on your application for the purpose of identifying offices you are interested in interviewing with, you will have an opportunity to revisit your rankings after the interviews. During this process, you are also interviewing the offices. Think about what you want from your practice, what kind of office culture and leadership you would like to experience, and the location where you would like to practice. It is helpful to determine what is most important to you in a post-graduate placement because we expect that you will make a 3-year commitment to that office. Therefore, if you are not interested in an office and could not see yourself making the commitment, please do not rank it.
- Make sure to double check that the offices you rank are compatible with your school and can be funded by your school. For example, some schools are only able to pay the office directly, and some offices are unable to accept payments from schools for the fellow. This restricts the ability of a person from some schools being placed as a fellow in a certain office. We will provide you with these limitations for office rankings, please review it before making your rankings.

When will I know if I have received a placement?

- We tentatively plan to make offers by December 16, 2019. Due to the intense process of ranking and matching offices with fellows, we expect individuals to accept the fellowship offers that are made to them. The dropout date to withdraw from the process is December 13. We expect applicants who receive offers to notify us of their acceptance by January 6 2020.

What happens after applications are submitted?

- After the application deadline on October 11, you will receive an email from us in the next couple of weeks that will notify you of whether or not your application has successfully made it to the next round of interviews. If your application qualifies you to move forward in the process, you will schedule an interview with Gideon's Promise staff.
- If your interview with Gideon's Promise staff qualifies you to move to the next round, your application will be forwarded to the partner offices you have expressed an interest in for their round of interviews. We are asking our partner offices to interview candidates between November 4, 2019 – December 4, 2019. Please keep office interview period in mind so that you are available when offices will be interviewing you for LSPP Placements.
- Please review the tentative timeline below. Keep in mind that dates may change but the timeline gives you a general sense of when you will hear from us and how the process will unfold over time.

What are some things to ask during your partner office interview?

Listed below are recommended questions to ask when interviewing with a partner office as well as questions to ask your law school if offered a fellowship.

- Make sure you speak with your Law schools career services department to determine the fellowship guidelines and compensation terms (i.e. compensation amount, benefits, length of fellowship etc.)
- When interviewing with the Partner Office please make sure you cover the following:
 - Are they able to provide health care benefits and other employee benefits during fellowship?
 - Once hired as a full-time employee, what is the benefit package and its terms?
 - What is the official start date in the office?
 - Is there a possibility that you can be hired as a full-time employee before the fellowship term ends?

How does the pairing process work?

- After interviewing applicants, offices will submit to us their own rankings of the students they have interviewed. We will then take the rankings we receive from our partner offices and match them to the rankings provided to us by the applicants. While the process is not exact, we try to ensure that applicants receive one of their top choices as a placement.

How much does the fellowship pay?

- The fellowship stipend is entirely up to the law school that is funding the fellowship. We try to work out arrangements that are most advantageous to program participants, but much of this depends on the law school and the office. Please check with the appropriate party at your school to find out about the fellowship amount and if there are any benefits provided.
- Keep in mind that if a fellowship must be paid directly to a fellow, then the fellow will be responsible for self-employment tax. Again, you will want to inquire with your law school and the offices regarding the payment of any benefits.

What is required of LSPP fellows?

- Selection as a Law School Partnership Project Fellow means that you will enter into the 3-year Core 101 program in your graduation year.
- The fellowship is an “at-will” arrangement. It will be up to the office to make determinations about your status depending on whether or not you pass the bar. Most offices keep fellows on through their first bar failure, but it is entirely up to the office. In addition, you will need to adhere to the office policies and procedures.

Additional Questions?

Please contact Training & Recruitment Director, Dr. Elizabeth Jones at elizabeth@gideonspromise.org