



The David and Mickey Bazelon Fellowship in Mental Health Law

The David and Mickey Bazelon Fellowship in Mental Health Law provides an opportunity for a recent graduate of Georgetown University Law Center to work with the nation's premier legal advocacy organization for people with mental disabilities, **The Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law**. For four decades, the Center has fought for the civil rights and basic dignity of people with mental disabilities. The Center's precedent-setting litigation helps shape strategies for attorneys from legal aid agencies to the U.S. Department of Justice. By protecting the right to self-determination and securing access to needed services, the Center's advocacy helps children and adults with mental disabilities lead lives of their own design as full members of the community. The Center's litigation and policy priorities include enforcing the Americans with Disabilities Act's "integration mandate," increasing equal educational and employment opportunities for people with mental disabilities, and enforcing entitlements under the Medicaid Act and other systems of care. To learn more about the Bazelon Center, visit www.bazelon.org.

The public interest fellowship is a two-year, paid position with a salary of \$60,000 and generous benefits. It is a great opportunity for new public interest lawyers to learn the fundamentals of civil rights impact litigation. The Fellow will work in the Center's offices in Washington, D.C., with leaders in the disability rights field, helping to develop and litigate groundbreaking cases and advocate for public policy reforms to advance the rights of adults and children with mental disabilities. In addition to working in federal and state trial courts, the Fellow may have opportunities to work on Supreme Court and other appellate cases, to lobby Members of Congress and federal agencies, and to support state-based advocacy organizations.

The 2016-18 Fellow says about her experience, "This fellowship has given me invaluable civil rights litigation and advocacy experience before federal and state courts, government agencies, and policymakers. The fellowship involves work on wide-ranging topics; in just the first year I have worked on both individual and class action suits focusing on community integration, education, employment, and criminal justice, as well as drafting policy reports and attending Hill meetings on presidential nominees, health care, and protecting the ADA. My colleagues at the Center have years of experience in the field and have consistently offered thoughtful guidance and advice. I encourage anyone with an interest in civil rights to apply."

Qualifications for the fellowship include a strong commitment to civil rights and social justice; excellent analytical and writing skills; and being a 2020-22 Georgetown Law graduate (J.D.). Knowledge of and experience in disability rights and/or mental health law is preferred but not essential. The two-year fellowship will start in August/September 2020 and conclude in August/September 2022.

To apply, please submit the following materials via PDF attached to an email to Brit Vanneman at britv@bazelon.org: a one-page cover letter containing a statement of your interest in the fellowship; a resume, including your grade point average; an unofficial academic transcript; a list of three references; and a writing sample of no more than ten pages.

The **application deadline** is October 3, 2021.