



Fall 2027 Legal Fellow Sponsorship — Lawyers' Committee for Rhode Island

Organization: Lawyers' Committee for Rhode Island (LCRI)

Location: Providence, Rhode Island

Position Type: Full-time sponsored Postgraduate Legal Fellowship (Justice Catalyst, Equal Justice Works, or similar)

Work Arrangement: Providence-based hybrid position, with regular in-person work with clients, courts, colleagues, and community partners throughout Rhode Island.

Start Date: Fall 2027

Application Review: Rolling, with priority consideration given to applications received by **October 1, 2026**. Candidates planning to apply through Equal Justice Works should contact us immediately, as EJW's Class of 2027 application closes September 17, 2026.

Begin your public-interest career with consequential litigation from day one.

About LCRI

The Lawyers' Committee for Rhode Island is a nonprofit legal advocacy organization, founded in December 2024, that mobilizes Rhode Island attorneys to protect communities, defend legal rights, and hold government accountable. LCRI works in coordination with national legal partners, including the ACLU and Democracy Forward, to bring current legal strategy to bear on threats facing Rhode Islanders.

LCRI's mission is to use the law to protect people, groups, and institutions in Rhode Island from illegality by the federal government, and to support efforts to maintain and advance democracy. Since its founding, LCRI has coordinated a network of volunteer attorneys through its Nonprofit Legal Protection Project (NLPP), supporting dozens of Rhode Island organizations and co-counseling litigation to protect billions of dollars in federal funding, alongside emergency actions defending immigrants, patients, and voters.

LCRI's work is organized around different issue areas:

- Nonprofit — protecting the funding, tax status, and operations of Rhode Island's nonprofit sector
- Immigration — defending Rhode Islanders from unlawful federal immigration enforcement
- Education — safeguarding students' and institutions' rights amid shifting federal guidance
- Emerging Areas — rapid-response litigation and advocacy as new threats develop
- Policy/Legislation — draft and provide testimony to build a state-level democracy firewall with state legislation responding to and anticipating federal enforcement abuses

About the Fellowship Opportunity

LCRI seeks a third-year law student, judicial law clerk, or recent law graduate to sponsor for a legal fellowship application, with the fellowship to begin in fall 2027. Potential funding sources include Justice Catalyst, Equal Justice Works, fellowships funded by the candidate's law school, or a comparable program.

This position is contingent on securing external fellowship funding. The selected candidate will work closely with LCRI's legal team to design a project proposal and submit a joint application to the sponsoring fellowship program. LCRI will commit senior attorney time to developing the project with you, will support simultaneous applications to multiple funders, and will provide all organizational materials, letters, and commitments the funders require.

If the candidate receives a fellowship award, the Fellow will become an LCRI employee with an annual salary of \$85,000 and the standard benefits available to LCRI's full-time attorneys. LCRI will provide any salary supplement and benefits not covered by the fellowship award. The anticipated term is one or two years, depending on the funder.

Potential project areas include:

- Rapid-response litigation challenging unlawful federal executive action affecting Rhode Island communities
- Direct legal support to nonprofits facing federal funding freezes, contract terminations, or threats to 501(c)(3) status
- Defense of immigrants' rights against federal enforcement overreach
- Protection of students' and educational institutions' legal rights

Candidates are encouraged to propose a project that reflects both their own interests and LCRI's current priorities, and that can be developed in partnership with LCRI's Chief Legal Counsel, Amy R. Romero.

What You'll Gain

- Direct mentorship from LCRI's small, highly active litigation team
- Hands-on experience across impact litigation, rapid-response advocacy, and coalition work with national partners
- The opportunity to shape a new organization's approach to an emerging area of public interest law
- Exposure to Rhode Island's nonprofit, immigrant, and education communities and the legal challenges they face

Qualifications

- J.D. or expected to receive a J.D. by spring 2027
- Admission to practice in Rhode Island, or willingness to seek admission promptly if selected

- Strong legal research, writing, and analytical skills
- Demonstrated commitment to civil rights, civil liberties, or public interest law
- Ability to work independently in a small, fast-moving organization
- Familiarity with or strong interest in Rhode Island's communities a plus

How to Apply

Please send a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and list of three references to amy@lawyerscommitteeri.org. Your cover letter should describe:

1. Your interest in working with LCRI specifically
2. Which fellowship(s) you intend to apply for (e.g., Justice Catalyst, Equal Justice Works etc.)
3. Your initial ideas for a fellowship project, if you have them

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Because fellowship application deadlines fall in early fall, candidates are strongly encouraged to apply as early as possible.

LCRI is an equal opportunity employer. We strongly encourage applications from candidates whose backgrounds are underrepresented in the legal profession, including candidates of color; LGBTQ+ candidates, candidates with disabilities, and candidates who are the first in their families to attend college or law school.