The National Center on Philanthropy and the Law was established at New York University School of Law in 1988 to explore a broad range of legal issues affecting the nation’s nonprofit sector, the largest voluntary sector in the world. Participating in this program are legal scholars, practicing attorneys, judges, law students, executives, and other professionals engaged in this field.

The Center promotes free intellectual inquiry that concentrates on the legal aspects of the organization and operation of charitable and social welfare entities. Conferences, research projects, a growing library, and the creation of a bibliography on nonprofit law, as well as law school courses, all are being used by the Center to produce and disseminate scholarship and to educate the legal and charitable communities about the many important issues of law affecting this large and vital sector.

Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and tolerant societies whose governments are accountable and open to the participation of all people. It seeks to strengthen the rule of law; respect for human rights, minorities, and a diversity of opinions; democratically elected governments; and a civil society that helps keep government power in check. The Foundations help to shape public policies that assure greater fairness in political, legal, and economic systems and safeguard fundamental rights. It implements initiatives to advance justice, education, public health, and independent media. It builds alliances across borders and continents on issues such as corruption and freedom of information.

Working in every part of the world, the Open Society Foundations place a high priority on protecting and improving the lives of people in marginalized communities.
What is the Fellowship?

The OSF Fellowship in Nonprofit Law permits one Fellow each year to spend a year in residence at the Open Society Foundations Office of the General Counsel, working with the General Counsel and the staff of attorneys on legal issues facing the Foundations. In addition, the Fellow will be deployed to OSF’s various projects and programs to address the legal, business, and organizational issues confronted by these projects and programs.

A Fellowship at OSF will provide a recent law school graduate with exposure to an unusually wide variety of legal and organizational issues encountered by private foundations.

Terms and Salary

The term of the Fellowship is one year. Fellows are funded annually at a salary of $65,000 plus benefits.

Who can be a Fellow?

This year, one Fellowship will be awarded to a recent graduate of an accredited U.S. law school. Fellows are selected for their scholarship, leadership, and commitment to practicing in the field of nonprofit law. Fellows will be selected without regard to the applicant’s race, color, religion, gender, political beliefs, national origin, disability, age, or sexual orientation.

Selection Process

The selection process consists of a written application and interviews of final candidates. The timetable is as follows:

Application Deadline
January 22, 2020

Interviews Conducted
January 2020

Fellow Commences Work
September 2020

To Apply

Online applications available at: http://ncpl.law.nyu.edu/
To receive an application by mail, or for more information, please contact:

Allie Tunis
Program Coordinator
National Center on Philanthropy and the Law
NYU School of Law
139 MacDougal Street, 1st Floor
New York, NY 10012
Tel: (212) 998-6168
Fax: (212) 995-3149
Email: ncpl.info@nyu.edu

OSF Office of the General Counsel

The OSF Office of the General Counsel is responsible for overseeing all of the legal affairs of the Open Society Foundations, an international grant making network.

The Office of the General Counsel handles a wide variety of domestic and international legal issues in many fields, including exempt organizations law and compliance with tax laws and regulations applicable to private foundations. The Office of the General Counsel’s portfolio also includes:

- advising all OSF entities (i.e., national and regional foundations) as needed;
- providing general corporate advice to OSF and its entities;
- advising with respect to domestic and international grant making;
- advising OSF management with respect to governance and compliance policies in its offices, as requested;
- advising in connection with the creation and administration of not-for-profit entities in the U.S. and abroad;
- a commercial/transactional practice that includes structuring, negotiating, and documenting business transactions in the U.S. and abroad;
- advising with respect to employment law matters;
- advising on intellectual property issues, such as licenses and trademark protection; and
- advising with respect to real estate matters.

The Office of General Counsel employs a staff of 31 worldwide, with 13 staff in New York City.