Melanie Kushnir Access to Justice Fellowship
Pro Bono Project at Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

2021 Application Information

Fellowship Timeline

- September 8, 2020 — Information Session at William S. Boyd School of Law for interested students
- November 2, 2020 — Application period opens
- January 21, 2021 — Information Session at William S. Boyd School of Law for interested students
- February 5, 2021 — Final Day to Submit an Application
- February 8 – 12, 2021 — Committee review
- February 16 – 26, 2021 — Interviews
- March 1, 2021 — Fellowship awarded

The ideal Melanie Kushnir Access to Justice Fellow is a law student from an ABA accredited law school who plans to practice public interest law and wants to obtain organizational-level experience working with access to justice as a part of the Pro Bono Project at Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. We are looking for a law student who, like Melanie, is passionate and dedicated to providing access to the justice system for those who otherwise would not have a voice because they cannot afford an attorney. We will look to the applicant's work experience, volunteer background, and 500-word statement to help us determine the 2021 Melanie Kushnir Access to Justice Fellow.

The application should include:

- A cover letter explaining why you are applying for this Fellowship and what you hope to achieve from the experience;
- A resume showing past work and volunteer history;
- Three letters of recommendation (which can be sent confidentially to Vconsidine@lacsn.org); and
- A 500 word statement **either**:
  - outlining an idea to improve access to justice in civil law in Southern Nevada;
  - identifying a barrier to accessing justice that low income and vulnerable individuals in our community face;

- offering a solution to overcome a barrier for low income individuals, **or**
- describing an idea to increase pro bono participation in the valley.

Along with becoming a part of the Pro Bono Project during the summer, the chosen Fellow will observe every area of Legal Aid Center and have the opportunity to work with a staff attorney on a case, along while working on access to justice projects.

Completed applications should be sent to careers@lacsn.org.

- What if I have questions?

You may speak to anyone you wish about Legal Aid Center, access to justice, and private attorneys doing pro bono work. We have a few attorneys and community members available to answer questions or talk through the fellowship experience. Feel free to contact them!

Kimberly Abbott, Former Pro Bono Director, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, kabbott@lacsn.org; 702-386-1470

Brad Lewis, Director, Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission, Bradl@nvbar.org, 702-382-2200

Lauren Peña, Directing Attorney, Civil Law Self-Help Center, Lpeña@lacsn.org, 702-671-3988

- When does the Fellowship begin/end and how much does it pay?

  - The Fellowship begins on May 17, 2020 through August 13, 2020. If there is a potential issue regarding these dates, please highlight it in your cover letter. The Fellowship officially concludes in May 2021.
  - The Fellowship stipend is $10,000 and is paid in installments on the 1st and 15th of the month during the summer portion of the fellowship.
  - The Fellow will attend the State Bar of Nevada Annual Conference during the summer of their Fellowship (TBD) and will be a guest at the Annual Pro Bono Project Awards Luncheon, in December 2021.
  - The Fellow will be able to take advantage of judicial mentoring organized by the Eighth Judicial District Court in honor of Melanie throughout the Fellowship.