

Michael and Mary Schuette Global Fellowship in Health and Human Rights

Northwestern's Center for International Human Rights welcomes applications for the 2026-2027 Michael and Mary Schuette Global Fellowship in Health and Human Rights. This year, one fellowship will be awarded to a current J.D. or LL.M. student from the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law's Class of 2025 or 2026 to work with a national or international NGO or international organization or institution on issues related to global health, human rights, and development.

International human rights fellowships provide a key pathway into public interest and human rights practice for graduating students or recent graduates. Many accomplished lawyers and advocates working in human rights or public international law pinpoint fellowship opportunities as providing a critical bridge between their legal education and gaining valuable job experience, as well as developing their professional reputation and network. Through the generosity of Chris and Christina Combe, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law seeks to provide this critical pathway into public service through the Mary and Michael Schuette Global Fellowship in Health and Human Rights.

The fellowship will provide the recipient with a \$70,000 package for a one-year position. This package is intended to cover salary, benefits, and travel expenses.

The fellowship is available to students who:

- Secure a placement with a national or international non-governmental organization or public international organization or institution, working on a clearly defined project or set of projects for the fellowship period;
- aim to provide support and advocacy for human rights advocates and communities on issues related to health, human rights, and development; and
- plan to pursue a career related to human rights, global health, and development.

Applicants are expected to secure a one-year placement at a national or international NGO or international organization or institution focused on global health, human rights, and development issues.

Past fellowships have taken place at the Near East Foundation; the UN High Commission on Refugees; the World Food Program; the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center; the National Center for Civil and Human Rights; Human Rights Watch; the Center for Reproductive Rights; the Corporate Accountability Lab; and the Jesuit Migrant Service of Chile. In their application, applicants should clearly identify the placement they have secured, the project or projects they would expect to work on, and how this placement fits into their broader career goals, building on prior opportunities and helping them achieve future ones.

If students would like support as they consider potential appropriate placements, or have questions about finding a placement, you may reach out to the Director of Northwestern's Access to Health Program, Professor Sarah Dorman (sarah.dorman@law.northwestern.edu).

Eligibility

Eligible applicants must be graduating members of Northwestern Pritzker School of Law's J.D. or LL.M. Classes of 2025 or 2026.

To be eligible, applicants must identify as a host organization:

- (a) an NGO that works on issues related to health, human rights, and development. The organization must be registered as a 501(c)(3) in the U.S. or equivalent in a foreign jurisdiction; or
- (b) a public international organization or institution, such as the World Health Organization or UNICEF.

The host organization must agree to employ the applicant for one year starting in the summer or fall of 2026 if the applicant is awarded the fellowship.

Selection Criteria and Application Process

Fellowships will be awarded by a selection committee. Applicants will be considered based upon a range of factors, including but not limited to:

- (a) demonstrated commitment to pursuing a career in public interest law, such as in the fields of global health, human rights, and development, and the applicant's articulation of how the proposed fellowship placement will support their future career goals;
- (b) record of relevant public interest work prior to and/or during law school; and
- (c) identification of a suitable host organization with capacity to provide appropriate supervision and support for the applicant, demonstrated by a short letter of support from the host organization agreeing to host the applicant, or an acceptance letter from an established placement program.

Application Materials

Applicants must submit the following materials:

1. Resume or CV;
2. Law school transcript;
3. A two-page letter of interest addressing the following:
 - your qualifications for the fellowship, including relevant experience acquired prior to and/or during law school;
 - your commitment to international human rights and development work;
 - your future plans, and how this fellowship would contribute to your future professional goals; and
 - how you selected your confirmed placement, the name and location of the organization, and the nature of the proposed work.
 - Please also indicate if you have taken the Health and Human Rights course and/or worked on issues related to health and human rights while in law school.
4. Contact information for three academic and/or professional references with knowledge of your relevant skills and experience.
5. A short letter of support for your placement from the proposed host organization, or an acceptance letter from an established placement program

Application Submission & Deadline

Interested students or recent graduates should submit an application via the following link:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/e5eb148f7b26424caadf6d14de4abc24>

Complete application packets must be submitted by **5:00 p.m. CT on March 18, 2026.**

If you have questions about the application, please contact Professor Sarah Dorman (sarah.dorman@law.northwestern.edu), copying Kendall Gail (kendall.gail@law.northwestern.edu).