Swords to Plowshares Seeks Fellowship Candidates for Veterans Legal Assistance Project

Swords to Plowshares’ Legal Services Unit seeks candidates from the class of 2023 to sponsor for Equal Justice Works, Skadden, Justice Catalyst, or law school-sponsored public interest fellowships.

Swords to Plowshares is a nationally recognized community-based nonprofit serving veterans in need in the San Francisco Bay Area. Founded in 1974, Swords to Plowshares provides legal assistance, needs assessment and case management, employment and training, and housing to veterans. We promote and protect the rights of veterans through advocacy, public education, and partnerships with local, state, and national entities. Our mission is to heal the wounds of war, to restore dignity, hope, and self-sufficiency to all veterans in need, and to prevent and end homelessness and poverty among veterans.

The Legal Services Unit at Swords represents veterans who seek Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare, disability compensation, and pension benefits. We also specialize in military discharge reviews and upgrades for veterans who received less than fully Honorable discharges, including LGBTQ+ veterans who were discharged under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” and/or seek to correct their name on their military record. We are a small, collegial staff, and we seek a fellow who is dynamic, creative, and highly motivated. Applicants are encouraged, though not required, to propose project ideas.

A successful fellowship candidate will:

- Possess superior research skills, a strong academic record, and impeccable written and verbal communication skills.
- Demonstrate sensitivity to the needs of clients who are trauma survivors, have experienced or are currently experiencing homelessness, and/or live with mental health or other medical conditions.
- Possess patience, creativity, attention to detail, and excellent organizational skills.
- Have a demonstrated ability to work both independently and in a team-oriented environment.
- Be able to communicate effectively with a variety of personalities and be comfortable working with an at-risk population.
- Embrace the organization’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative.
- Become a member of the State Bar of California (other state bar membership may qualify, if it satisfies VA rules for attorney representation and meets eligibility requirements for admission to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims).

Veterans are strongly encouraged to apply. Women, people of color, people with disabilities and LGBTQ+ individuals are also encouraged to apply. Please note that Swords to Plowshares will make reasonable accommodations for applicants and employees with disabilities.

To learn more about Equal Justice Works post-graduate legal fellowships, please visit https://www.equaljusticeworks.org/become-a-fellow/. To learn more about Skadden post-graduate
legal fellowships, please visit http://www.skaddenfellowships.org/. To learn more about Justice Catalyst fellowships, please visit https://justicecatalyst.org/fellowship/jc-fellowship/.

TO APPLY
Please send (1) a cover letter detailing your interest in Swords to Plowshares along with (2) a resume, (3) academic transcript, (4) writing sample, and (5) list of three references to: olivia.cole@stp-sf.org. Please be sure to include “Fellowship Candidate” in the subject line.

The deadline for applications is Monday, May 30, 2022.