

Perry Watkins Fellowship

The University of Michigan Law School

2008

Purpose: The University of Michigan Law School established the Perry Watkins Fellowship as a means to ameliorate the effects of the Solomon Amendment. This federal statute requires the Law School to permit on-campus recruiting by military agencies or else risk the loss of significant federal funding to the entire University. While faculty policy precludes on-campus recruiting by employers who cannot certify that they do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation (among other criteria), the Solomon Amendment effectively overrides this policy as applied to the U.S. Armed Forces which, through the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender ("LGBT") people.

Whereas military employment opportunities are foreclosed to openly LGBT Michigan Law students, the Perry Watkins Fellowship offers an opportunity for all Michigan Law students to work on behalf of LGBT causes. The Fellowship will be awarded to a qualified student who obtains a summer internship promoting LGBT rights. The Fellowship is named in honor of Perry Watkins, a courageous and openly gay military officer who challenged the exclusionary precursor to the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy and, in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, won reinstatement to the Army.

Who Can Apply: 1Ls and 2Ls (*Please note: You do not have to have a job secured to apply for the fellowship*)

What is the Amount of the Fellowship: \$3,500

Selection Criteria Process:

The selection committee, made up of faculty and staff shall look to the following criteria in selecting the Perry Watkins fellow:

1. The applicant must work on LGBT legal issues for a nonprofit organization for a minimum of 10 weeks during the summer.
2. The applicant must demonstrate a commitment to LGBT issues.
3. The applicant must demonstrate a commitment to public service or social justice issues.
4. The applicant must demonstrate a significant commitment to the law school community.

Limitations: The position chosen must be the primary legal employment for the summer. The Fellow may not receive funding or any other form of financial assistance from the University of Michigan for said summer employment, including but not limited to support from a Bates Fellowship, Dean's Public Service Fellowship, the Law School's Refugee and Cambodia Law Program, Student Funded Fellowship, the University's International Institute, or the Joe McMahon Fellowship with Service Members Legal Defense Network. The work performed may not be partisan political in nature.

Peer Counseling: At the conclusion of the summer, the Fellow must submit a report to the director of the Office of Public Service that includes the contact information of the organization for which the Fellow worked, a description of the duties performed and an evaluation of the job experience. In addition, the Fellow agrees to be available to assist other students interested in working on LGBT issues.

***Application Deadline is December 5, 2007 at 5 PM
Please submit a copy of your resume and your application to
Office of Public Service, Room 200 Hutchins Hall #29***

Applicant Name:

Address:

Email:

Date of Graduation:

Describe briefly (in 300 words or less) where you are applying for summer positions and what experience you hope to gain.

Describe briefly (in 500 words or less) whether and how you intend to incorporate LGBT issues into your career.

Describe briefly (in 500 words or less) a past experience that has led to your interest in working on LGBT issues this summer.

I hereby certify that the facts set forth in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Date: _____