

Government Accountability and Press Freedom Clinical Teaching Fellowship/Staff Attorney

Department: Law School
Posting Category: Staff
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The University at Buffalo School of Law invites applications for a Government Accountability and Press Freedom Clinical Teaching Fellowship/Staff Attorney position, to commence as soon as possible this fall semester.

The successful candidate will co-supervise a clinic focused on government transparency, free speech, and civil liberties, alongside a law school faculty member. This position offers attorneys with an interest in press freedom, First Amendment, and government accountability the opportunity to engage in high-impact litigation and other work in support of local journalism and accountability efforts.

The Clinical Fellow/Staff Attorney will have primary responsibility for leading a project to provide legal support to local journalists, newsrooms, and non-profits that engage in investigative work. The successful candidate will have significant latitude to shape the project, under the supervision of the clinic's director. Typical matters handled by the Clinical Fellow/Staff Attorney are likely to include litigation under Freedom of Information laws, court-access laws, and other transparency laws; defense against defamation or similar actions; providing trainings on transparency and press freedom issues; and conducting pre-publication review of investigative reports.

The Clinical Fellow/Staff Attorney's duties will include supervision of second- and third-year law students' work on client matters, planning and teaching clinic seminar classes, and conducting outreach in Western New York and surrounding regions in order to build the clinic's docket in support of local journalism. The Clinical Fellow/Staff Attorney will be primarily responsible for covering their matters during the summer and inter-semester breaks, with assistance from law student interns.

Depending on the successful candidate's professional aspirations, there will be opportunities to prepare for a career as a clinical professor by, among other things, engaging in formalized training on clinical teaching methodologies, developing a

portfolio of legal scholarship and other publications, and preparing for the law school clinical teaching market. The Clinical Fellow/Staff Attorney will be integrated into the Clinical Legal Education program and will be welcome to participate in the vibrant intellectual life of the School of Law, including faculty workshops, academic conferences, and other events. If the Clinical Fellow/Staff Attorney is not interested in pursuing a career in clinical teaching they will be provided preparation and support to continue their career at public interest organizations, private law firms, in-house positions, or other settings.

This is a non-tenure track position on a 12-month basis for one year, renewable for up to three years in total. Salary is \$70,000/year. The Clinical Fellow/Staff Attorney will receive full benefits (including excellent health insurance) and a budget of \$2,000 for conference travel. Fellows will be joining a clinical program whose mission is to deliver access to justice while teaching UB law students to be excellent, ethical, and engaged lawyers. The School of Law has a deep and longstanding commitment to serving clients and the broader public in Western New York and beyond. The Clinical Fellow/Staff Attorney will have the unique opportunity deliver on that commitment to support the vitally important work of local journalists and non-profits who ensure that governments and other powerful institutions are accountable to an informed public.

The University at Buffalo School of Law is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer with a strong institutional commitment to diversity among its faculty, staff, and students.

Minimum Qualifications (Position)

Candidates should have at least one year of relevant practice experience; strong written and oral communication skills; an interest in and aptitude for teaching and supervision; interest in press freedom, local journalism, and/or government accountability work; a demonstrated commitment to public interest or pro bono legal work; and the ability to work both collaboratively and independently. Prior experience litigating Freedom of Information cases or similar matters in state or federal court is a strong plus. The Clinical Fellow/Staff Attorney must be a member of the New York Bar (currently licensed in New York) or be eligible to be admitted on motion, without examination, (see Judiciary Law § 90 [i][b]; 22 NYCRR 520.10) in order to independently supervise law practice by students.