



2025
RAPPAPORT
FELLOWS
PROGRAM



RAPPAPORT CENTER
FOR LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY
BOSTON COLLEGE | LAW

Overview

Jerome Lyle and Phyllis Rappaport



The Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy brings together state, local, and national thought leaders, public officials, scholars, practitioners, and policy makers to address significant issues of law and public policy. To inspire future leaders, the Center also runs the Rappaport Fellows

program which provides 12 students from law schools throughout Massachusetts with opportunities and funding to work on law and policy issues in a state or local government agency during the summer.

Visit bc.edu/rappaport to learn more about our work.



2024 Rappaport Fellows with Phyllis Rappaport.

Summer Fellowship Program

Rappaport Fellows are afforded experiences that connect the practical and intellectual elements of public policy, public service, and civic leadership. The program encompasses five major components:

1. Interning for 10 weeks in a state or local government office working on law and public policy issues relevant to the Greater Boston region and/or Massachusetts.
2. Engaging in weekly forums that provide a look at the myriad ways lawyers and public officials make a difference.
3. Connecting with mentors from the Rappaport Center community— Rappaport Center Advisory Board members, prior Rappaport Fellows, government officials, and civic leaders— who are paired with Fellows based on interests and experiences.
4. Completing the program final evaluation.
5. Contributing a blog post during the summer.

Fellows receive a \$10,000 stipend (taxable) for participating in the Program.

“The Rappaport Fellowship fueled my passion for public policy while providing me with the opportunity to increase my legal skills and network. I am ending this summer more confident in my ability to make a difference through public policy lawyering.”

***Ally Crays, Northeastern University School of Law,
2023 Rappaport Fellow***

Internships

Fields in which internships may be obtained include, but are not limited to:

- Civil Rights
- Criminal Justice
- Children's Rights
- Transportation
- Employment and Labor
- Environment
- Health Care
- Housing

Examples of Past Internships:

- City of Somerville Law Department
- Committee for Public Counsel Services
- Executive Office for Administration and Finance
- Governor's Office of Cabinet Affairs and Strategic Planning
- Massachusetts Attorney General's Office
- Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination
- Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services
- Middlesex District Attorney's Office
- Mayor's Office, City of Boston
- Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement
- State Senators' and State Representatives' Offices
- Suffolk County District Attorney's Office

**Applicants should be applying for summer internships independent of the process of submitting an application for a Rappaport Fellowship.*

Mentors

Each Rappaport Fellow is paired with a mentor, carefully selected based on the Fellow's interests and experiences. Mentors, well respected members of the legal community, are chosen from among our Advisory Board, prior Rappaport Fellows, and legal practitioners.



2024 Rappaport Fellows with Anthony Benedetti, Chief Counsel, Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS), and Rappaport Center Advisory Board member.

Experiential Learning Opportunities

The Rappaport Fellows meet weekly during June and July to experience different areas where law and public policy converge. Senior attorneys, judges, government officials, and community leaders often participate in the weekly programs to share their experiences, insights, and advice. The Rappaport Fellows become part of an interdisciplinary community through a partnership with Harvard Kennedy School's Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston, which runs a similar Fellows program for graduate non-law students interested in public policy. During the summer, the two groups of Fellows occasionally meet together for the weekly forums.

Examples of Past Experiential Learning Opportunities:

Meetings with:

- Chief Justice, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court
- Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor
- Massachusetts Attorney General
- Mayor of Boston
- U.S. Attorney

The Rappaport Fellowship experience is both an honor and a joy. Meeting with some of the highest government officials in [Massachusetts] carries an inherent, expected gravitas. But at the same time, the members of our cohort overflowed with hope for the future, determination to make a difference, and camaraderie. Each outing left me feeling like I had met someone currently in power that wanted to do good through their position – and – that the Fellows around me were eager to jump into public service and lift up that good work to new heights.

*Nicholas (Nick) Martin, Northeastern University School of Law,
2024 Rappaport Fellow*

Mandatory Events

Fellows are required to attend an orientation meeting (April), the Welcome Reception (May), the weekly experiential sessions, and the Celebration of Fellows dinner (late July or early August). The experiential learning opportunities are generally scheduled for Thursday afternoons from 3-5 p.m. Some programs are held at other times and occasionally require a half-day commitment. Rappaport Fellows are typically permitted to leave work early in order to participate.

Eligibility and Selection Process

Any law student who is a J.D. candidate in good standing at an eligible law school (Boston College, Boston University, Harvard, New England, Northeastern, Suffolk, UMass, and Western New England) and who is not in the final year of law school may apply for a Rappaport Fellowship. The selection process for Rappaport Fellows is competitive. We seek applicants with strong academic records, demonstrated commitment to public service as shown by past professional or volunteer experiences as well as extracurricular activities, and potential for leadership. We recommend that applicants have a minimum GPA of 3.0.

Although we cannot guarantee that every law school will be represented in each selected class of Rappaport Fellows, we are committed to the fair and inclusive distribution of Fellowships among the eligible law schools. Finalists are invited for interviews.



2024 Rappaport Fellows with Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, 2010 Rappaport Fellow, and Rappaport Center Advisory Board member.

Applications

A complete application package includes each of the following:

- Resume (no more than two pages);
- A personal statement explaining your passion and commitment to public policy and why you believe you would be an excellent Rappaport Fellow. Personal statements should also include your public policy interest areas (if determined) and any placement you have already obtained or alternatively, agencies where you have an interest in being placed. Statements should not exceed two double-spaced pages.
- Names and current contact information for two professional and/or academic references.
- Law school transcript. Applicants should provide all law school grades available at the time the application is due and should update their application with any additional grades finalized after the application deadline. First-year law students must also submit their undergraduate transcript. Applicants who have graduate degrees may submit their graduate transcript instead of their undergraduate transcript. Unofficial transcripts are accepted.

Applications are due Thursday, January 16, 2025, by 5 p.m. (EST).

To apply, complete the online application: tinyurl.com/RappaportApp2025

Photographs are frequently taken throughout the summer and shared on our social media platforms.

Thank you for your interest in the Rappaport Fellows Program!

The Fellowship was an amazing experience for me and truly solidified my desire for public service. Both the internship and the weekly Rappaport events were spectacular. Most importantly, connecting with the other Fellows in my cohort really inspired me, and affirmed my belief that public servants include many of the best and brightest our society has to offer.

*Ethan FitzGerald, Boston University School of Law,
2023 Rappaport Fellow*



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