



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 and policy makers to address significant issues of law and public policy. By convening government officials, legislators, practitioners, academics, students, and

members of the public, we provide opportunities for respectful discourse on pressing social issues. To inspire future public policy leaders, the Center also runs the Rappaport Fellows program which provides 12 law 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 what we do.



2019 Rappaport Fellows with Jerry and Phyllis Rappaport, Rappaport Faculty Director Daniel Kanstroom, and Rappaport Executive Director, Elisabeth J. Medvedow.

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 Massachusetts;
2. Engaging in weekly forums that provide a look at the myriad ways lawyers in the public sector make a difference;
3. Connecting with mentors from the Rappaport Center community—Rappaport Center Advisory Board members, prior 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 \$7,000 stipend (taxable) for participating in the Program.

Additional Funding Opportunity: the 2021 Rappaport Fellows will have an opportunity to apply for grant funding to write a 20-25 page research paper on an interesting or unresolved question of law and public policy related to Fellowship work. This will be a competitive application process. Fellows whose papers are accepted and completed satisfactorily will receive a \$2,000 grant, in addition to the stipend.

“The best part of the Rappaport Fellowship was the opportunity to learn from so many dedicated and talented people, from the lawyers I worked with at the Attorney General’s Office, to the two terrific mentors, the public servants we met on our weekly outings, and a cohort of Fellows who share my passion for public policy.”

Garrett Casey, Harvard Law School, 2018 Rappaport Fellow

Internships

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

- Civil Rights
- Criminal Justice
- Economics
- Education
- Employment and Labor
- Energy
- Environment
- Health Care
- Housing
- Mental Health
- Pay Equity
- Transportation

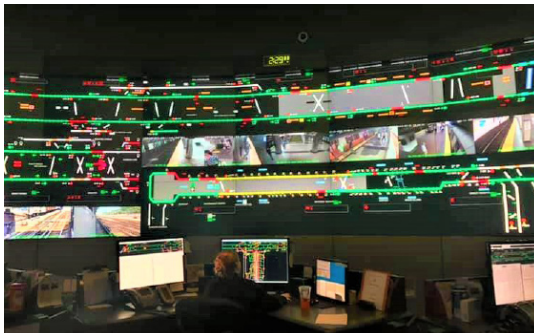
Examples of Past Internships:

- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Massachusetts Department of Transportation
- Committee for Public Counsel Services, Youth Advocacy Division
- Governor's Office of Legal Counsel
- Massachusetts Attorney General's Office
- Mayor's Office, City of Boston
- Massachusetts State Treasurer's Office
- State Senator's Office
- Boston Public Schools
- Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
- Massachusetts Department of Veterans Affairs

Mentors

Each Rappaport Fellow receives two mentors selected on the basis of the Fellow's interests and experiences. The mentors, well respected members of the legal community, are chosen from among our Advisory Board, prior Rappaport Fellows, and on occasion, outside practitioners.

The 2019 Rappaport Fellows explored the MBTA control room.



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 Center 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 frequently meet together for the weekly forums.

Examples of Past Experiential Learning Opportunities:

- Meeting with Massachusetts Governor at the State House
- Meeting with Mayor of Boston at City Hall
- Haymarket Vent Building
- Massachusetts Correctional Institution
- Supreme Judicial Court
- Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Control Room
- Fenway Park
- Rosie's Place
- Discovering Justice

“The weekly outings truly encompass the Rappaport Center's mission to build out a thoughtful next generation of leaders in public service capable of solving the nuanced public policy issues of the time. Whether learning about the importance of civic education in the shaping of democratic society at Discovering Justice or being exposed to the sobering fact that many incarcerated individuals at MCI-Cedar Junction - and across the nation - are there as a result of their struggle with severe mental health issues, the cohort of Fellows were challenged to think through policy matters that extend beyond one's day-to-day life.”

**Michael Anderson, Suffolk University Law School,
2018 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 (late July or early August). The experiential learning opportunities are scheduled for Thursday afternoons from 3-5 p.m. Some programs are held at other times and occasionally require a half-day commitment. Unless circumstances require otherwise, Rappaport Fellows are typically permitted to leave work early in order to participate.

Dates will be finalized prior to the selection of finalists. Fellows are asked to be prepared to accommodate changes in the summer schedule.

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.

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. All applications are reviewed on a non-partisan basis. Finalists are invited for interviews.



The 2019 Rappaport Center and Institute Fellows with Suffolk County DA Rachael Rollins.

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 agencies where you have an interest in being placed. Statements should not exceed two double-spaced pages;
- Names and 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 (unofficial is fine). Applicants who have graduate degrees may submit their graduate transcript instead of their undergraduate transcript.

The deadline for applications is Friday, January 22, 2021 at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

To apply, complete online application: bit.ly/rappaportApp21

**Only applications submitted through the online system will be considered.*

Thank you for your interest in the Rappaport Fellows Program!

The Rappaport Fellowship was on my radar even before I applied to law school, and still the program exceeded my expectations. Every component of the program -- the cohort, internship placements in state and local government, weekly outings, and mentorship -- is thoughtfully designed to create an engaging 10-week deep dive into Massachusetts state and local government law and public policy!

**Kaitlin "Kadie" Martin, Boston College Law School,
2019 Rappaport Fellow**



The Rappaport Fellows Program is funded through the generosity of the Phyllis and Jerome Lyle Rappaport Foundation.

“I took a public service Fellowship because I wanted to work on producing public policies that center racial and social equity, that encourage authentic community participation, that give residents a platform to speak and to be heard, that is transparent, and that recognize the enduring harms of past policies.”

**gainat khan, Northeastern University School of Law,
2019 Rappaport Fellow**



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