



## **Fellowship Opportunity**

The Connecticut Veterans Legal Center (CVLC) invites rising third-year law students and recent law graduates to apply with CVLC for sponsorship for an externally-funded public interest fellowship such as Skadden, Equal Justice Works, Justice Catalyst, or the Connecticut Bar Foundation Singer Fellowship, or similar, to begin in the fall of 2025. CVLC plans to host a Fellow and develop a fellowship project to support our ongoing advocacy and litigation on behalf of disabled veterans or veterans facing homelessness.

### **About CVLC:**

Connecticut Veterans Legal Center's mission is to empower, support, and improve the lives of Connecticut Veterans by providing free legal assistance to help them overcome legal barriers to housing, healthcare, income, and recovery. We are a dynamic group of client-centered advocates. The results we get for our veterans are some of the best in legal aid, and we all play a part in making that happen. We are collegial and collaborative; we all pitch in as needed. Our teamwork is a hallmark of our organization. CVLC is the first legal aid program in the country to form a medical-legal partnership with the VA. This partnership integrates legal help into VA mental health, housing and addiction services. Our work occurs where veterans law intersects with economic and racial justice, human rights, and mental health.

### **Sample Fellowship Projects:**

CVLC will work with the selected candidate to identify a project that meets the Fellow's interests and experiences and supports CVLC's mission and the needs of our client population. Potential projects that CVLC has in mind include:

- Proactive litigation and advocacy on behalf of veterans who are dealing with conditions issues and unfair business practices that put the veterans housing at risk due to no fault of their own;
- Provide direct representation to elderly veterans to maximize VA benefits and meet other legal needs as identified in an upcoming CVLC client survey of elder law needs;
- Advocacy before Department of Defense Discharge Review Boards and the Department of Veterans Affairs on behalf of veterans who received less than honorable military discharges due to racial or gender discrimination in service;
- Appeals before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for veterans denied service connected disability compensation for mental health disorders; particularly stemming from military sexual trauma.

### **Primary Roles & Responsibilities:**

- Conduct legal research, analysis to develop new legal theories and advance existing theories
- Draft memoranda, pleadings, affidavits, motions, and/or briefs
- Represent veterans in housing court or administrative hearings as required by the project

- Interview potential clients and review documentation
- Engage in public speaking, meetings, or trainings as needed
- Commitment to principles of access, equity, inclusion and belonging for clients and colleagues, and affirmation of CVLC values
- Ability to travel within the state of Connecticut

**Qualifications for the Role:**

- J.D., or expected to receive a J.D. by the Spring of 2025
- Ability to become admitted in CT by Fall 2025 by taking the July bar exam or waiver (exception may be made for a Fellow admitted to practice in another state when the project requires only federal administrative or court appearance)
- Willingness to work closely with CVLC through the funding application process in Fall 2024
- Self-motivated, ability to work independently and with a team
- Prior experience with veterans law, disability rights work, and/or housing law (via professional or personal experience) preferred but not required.

**Compensation:**

Salary and duration of employment will be based on the external funder of the Fellowship grant. CVLC will provide the Fellow with benefits, including health, dental, vision, and life insurance; a 403(b) retirement plan; paid time off and sick leave; and a family-friendly workplace. CVLC does not commit to providing the Fellow with a permanent position at the conclusion of the fellowship, but should such a placement be mutually agreeable, the Fellow will enter the CVLC salary scale based on years of experience. A CVLC staff attorney with one year of practice experience earns \$65,349, based on the current pay scale.

**Location:**

This position will be based out of CVLC's office in West Haven, CT. CVLC offers a hybrid work environment that enables a combination of in-person and remote work. In-state travel may be required for the position, depending on the scope of the project.

**To Apply:**

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample to CVLC at [applicants@ctveteranslegal.org](mailto:applicants@ctveteranslegal.org). Please be prepared to share the names, title and contact information for three references if requested. We will review applications on a rolling basis.

*Studies have shown that women, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) individuals are less likely to apply for jobs unless they believe they meet every single one of the qualifications as described in a job description; despite the reality that applicants rarely ever meet 100% of the qualifications. We are committed to building a diverse and inclusive organization, and we are most interested in finding the best candidate for*

*the role. That candidate may be one who comes from a background less traditional to our field of work, and that's okay!*

*We strongly encourage you to apply, even if you don't believe you meet every one of the qualifications described.*