

Program Eligibility

All applicants must:

- Be at least 20 years of age by September 1 of the fellowship year.
- Have a bachelor's degree by September 1 of the fellowship year and either a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.5 or higher or a GPA of 2.5 or higher in the last 60 (semester) or 90 (quarter) units.
- Have a demonstrated interest in state government and public policy.
- Be authorized to work in the United States for the duration of the fellowship program.

How to Apply

Applicants must submit the following by the application deadline:

- Completed online application at csus.edu/capitalfellows
- Statement of purpose and policy statement
- Resume
- College transcript(s)
- A list of three individuals who will write letters of recommendation

Applications and specific dates and deadlines can be found online at csus.edu/capitalfellows

For more information, contact

Center for California Studies, California State University,
Sacramento (916) 278-6906; capfellowsoutreach@csus.edu



"The Judicial Fellowship introduced an incredible (and previously unknown to me) opportunity for highly engaging public service. I was looking for ways to make the world a better place when I applied to be a Fellow. My path to being appointed as a CEO of a Superior Court was deeply shaped by the examples of dedicated service I saw around me in the program."

Laila Waheed, Court Executive Officer, Nevada County Superior Court;
Judicial Fellow, 2017-2018

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CAPITAL
FELLOWS

The JUDICIAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

THE JUDICIAL FELLOW EXPERIENCE

Established in 1997 and jointly sponsored by the Judicial Branch of California and the Center for California Studies at Sacramento State, the Judicial Fellowship Program places Fellows as full-time, analyst-level staff in courts and Judicial Council offices across the state, offering a rigorous and immersive experience in court administration. Fellows do not work in case adjudication; rather, they contribute directly to policy and budget analysis, project management, and administrative operations that keep a complex court system functioning effectively. This role actively supports the branch's mission of providing access to justice for all while offering Fellows deep insight into how the judicial branch serves the public.

The program emphasizes professional growth through mentorship and hands-on experience, launching Fellows into public service careers. The Director of the Judicial Fellowship Program manages the fellowship, provides training, and serves as the direct supervisor for Fellows. The Director offers guidance through regular one-on-one meetings, helping Fellows navigate the transition into public service. The Director serves as a key resource for reflection, problem-solving, and professional growth. Fellows are also paired with an on-site mentor who ensures opportunities for meaningful assignments in their placement office.



"The essence of the Judicial Fellowship Program is that you aren't meant to know everything before joining, nor when leaving. The focus is on the person I am now and ways to better myself personally and professionally in the areas where I can contribute the most. As a Black woman, a mother, and a nontraditional college graduate, coming from a small town in the Midwest, I have experienced my share of challenges. My fellowship experience, however, has instilled gratitude within me that I have felt even in the midst of the challenges — and I've welcomed them all."

Caché Raine-Jones, Judicial Fellow, 2023-2024

The Nature of Fellowship Work

The 10-month fellowship begins in September with an intensive orientation, after which fellows start work in their placement offices. Some prior placement opportunities include:

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
Superior Court of California, County of Placer
Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino
Judicial Council of California, Office of Governmental Affairs

While each placement offers a distinct experience shaped by the priorities of its office, Fellows are united by the nature of their work in court administration. Fellows may have the opportunity to work on data and program analysis of court initiatives, community engagement and outreach efforts such as Law Day, manage projects to expand language access, or work on process improvement projects that support a courts' adoption of emerging technologies.

Program Benefits

- Paid full-time employment status, including health, vision, and dental benefits
- One-time moving allowance
- Student loan deferment eligibility
- Graduate Certificate in Applied Policy and Government upon program completion



Academic & Field Seminar

Judicial Fellows participate in monthly academic and field seminars with their cohort. In academic seminars, Fellows connect the study and theory of court administration to their real-world placements. In field seminars, Fellows visit courts and offices throughout California to learn how each uniquely serves its community. Upon successful completion of the fellowship, Fellows earn six graduate units in Public Policy and Administration at no cost for tuition or fees.

