

CALIFORNIA

# JUDICIAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

a dynamic 10-month fellowship working in court management



SACRAMENTO  
STATE



A Gateway to Public Service and Leadership

SACRAMENTO STATE • CENTER FOR CALIFORNIA STUDIES

# The Judicial Fellowship Experience

Judicial fellows work for 10 months in courts or Judicial Council offices across California, gaining direct experience in the **administration** of a complex and changing court environment. Courts do much more than adjudicate cases. In the service of promoting access to justice for everyone, Judicial Fellows are exposed to **executive level management** and the development of a variety of court programs and departments, multi-million dollar budgets, policy, and other managerial tasks. The special challenge of court administration is to manage these functions in ways that preserve judicial independence and ensure the efficient and fair administration of the law.

## Academic and Field Seminar

Judicial Fellows are enrolled as graduate students at Sacramento State and participate in regularly scheduled academic seminar and field seminars throughout the duration of the program. Fellows earn 6 units of graduate credit in Public Policy and Administration and complete a Fellowship Project on a topic/issue relative to the Fellows' placement court or office. Upon successful completion of all fellowship components, Fellows earn a graduate certificate in Applied Policy and Government.

Field seminar is run in conjunction with academic seminar and takes place at a different court each month. During field seminars Fellows have the opportunity to learn about different court programs, observe courthouse operations and speak with experts in the court system throughout the state.

Academic seminar focuses on a critical examination and historical analysis of the California judicial system and its administrative structures, policies and managerial practices in the fall semester. Spring semester includes the study of contemporary institutional issues, intergovernmental relations, alternative administrative practices, policy analysis and implementation strategies.

***"The Judicial Fellowship Program is one of our efforts to ensure the continued excellence of California's courts. I have had the opportunity to work with Judicial Fellows and have been inspired by their contributions and their commitment. The Fellows gain valuable experience working with the finest judiciary in the world, and we encourage the talent we need now and in the future to manage the largest court system in the nation."***

—Honorable Tani Cantil-Sakauye,  
Chief Justice of California  
Chair of the Judicial Council of California

## A day in the life of a Judicial fellow may include work in....

- Research and projects involving contemporary justice issues such as: juvenile justice and teen court programs, drug court, self help centers, and public access to court services and programs
- Coordinating and participating in community outreach programs and events such as Law Day
- Legislative analysis

## Placement opportunities may include:

Superior Court of California,  
*County of Alameda*

Superior Court of California,  
*County of Butte*

Superior Court of California,  
*County of Orange*

Superior Court of California,  
*County of Placer*

Superior Court of California,  
*County of San Bernardino*

Judicial Council of California,  
*Office of Governmental Affairs*

## Program Stipend and Benefits

- **Monthly stipend of \$2,964** and health, dental and vision benefits
- Paid university enrollment and student fees for graduate units in Public Policy and Administration
- **Graduate Certificate** in Applied Policy and Government
- Student loan deferment

**[csus.edu/center/california-studies/capital-fellows](http://csus.edu/center/california-studies/capital-fellows)**

"The Fellowship provided me with an opportunity to learn about California's court system by working at the Alameda Superior Court. Under the guidance of my mentor, I conducted research, evaluated court programs and services, and reported findings to both court administrators and judges. My main project involved developing and carrying out a language access training for court staff. Other projects I worked on included coordinating court visits for local schools and researching and comparing jury failure to appear programs across the state. Our academic and field seminars bridged the practice of working in a courthouse with theories of court administration. The seminars served as open spaces to share, question, and discuss contemporary issues facing the courts, such as access to justice. More importantly, seminars helped build community amongst the Fellows and program staff."

Paola Dela Cruz - Perez,  
2013-14 Judicial Fellow  
Superior Court of California, Alameda



# Program Eligibility

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All applicants must:

- Be at least 20 years of age by September 1<sup>st</sup> of the fellowship year.
- Have a bachelor’s degree by September 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
- 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

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Applicants must submit the following by the February deadline:

- Completed online application at [csus.edu/center/center-california-studies/capital-fellows](https://csus.edu/center/center-california-studies/capital-fellows)
- College transcript(s)
- Personal statement and program statement
- Three current, original letters of recommendation

# Timeline

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Early February ..... Applications due\*  
Late April..... Southern California interviews  
Early May..... Sacramento interviews  
Mid to Late May .....Candidates notified  
September ..... Fellowship begins  
July .....Fellowship ends

\* Applications and specific dates, details and deadlines can be found online at [csus.edu/center/center-california-studies/capital-fellows](https://csus.edu/center/center-california-studies/capital-fellows)

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## For more information:

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[csus.edu/center/center-california-studies/capital-fellows](https://csus.edu/center/center-california-studies/capital-fellows)