

A Preference for Veteran Fellowship Applicants

There is no greater public service than serving one's country in the active military. Since 2006, the Foundation has requested that its participating law schools give a preference to its men and women veteran Fellowship applicants who are serving, or who have previously served, in the US Army, Army JAG Corps, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy. One of our 2020 Fellows served his country in the Republic of Korea Army. We are very proud of the 16 veteran Fellows that we have to date, and you can read about them below.

Our 2020 Fellowship Class boasts three distinguished military veterans.

James R. Harper, III, US Army, Fellowship Class of 2020. James attends the University of Virginia Law School, after graduating from George Mason University in 2012, where he concentrated on Russian and Central Asian studies. He is proficient in Russian. James has a distinguished military record, beginning as a paratrooper and, more recently, as a member of a Special Operations team at a US Embassy. James' Fellowship program took him to the Court of Appeals Litigation Group at the Department of Veterans Affairs. "I want to ensure that the benefits promised to those who volunteered to serve continue to be available to them."

Heung Yeal "Ian" Kim, Republic of Korea Army, Fellowship Class of 2020. Ian is an Emmerich de Vettel International Law Scholar at Case Western University Law School. He wants to pursue a career in public service. Prior to his military service as an intelligence officer, he was a research intern for a US Congressman and then a translator for the Soongsil University Foundation for Korean Unification in Seoul. He did his undergraduate work at The George Washington University. His career and studies have always focused on public service, and this past summer he worked for the State of Washington on employment issues.

Matthew Vondrasek, US Air Force, Fellowship Class of 2020. Matthew is the most recent in a long line of outstanding Fellows from the University of Colorado Law School. He is in the honors program with the Washington office of the EPA, within its Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. Matthew is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Nebraska. Since 2011, he has served as a Network Intelligence Analyst for the US Air Force. In 2019, he researched pollution and water law questions for Western Resources Advocates. Matthew aspires to be an environmental lawyer and views his Fellowship and work at EPA as "a rare opportunity to learn about... the day-to-day operations of the premier US agency in charge of environmental policy."

In our 2019 Fellowship Class, **Andrea D. Laprade, US Air Force** served her Fellowship at Ayuda, Inc. She attended Catholic University Columbus School of Law.

In our 2018 Fellowship Class, **Katie Rose Martin, US Army**, served her Fellowship at the Peace At Home Family Shelter. She attended University of Arkansas School of Law.

In our 2017 Fellowship Class, **Holger Sonntag, US Army**, served his Fellowship at the Washington State Attorney General's Office. He attended Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

In our 2016 Fellowship Class, we had four veterans:

Eilif Vanderkolk, US Marine Corps, served his Fellowship at the FCC Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. He attended University of Colorado Law School.

Anthony Rodregous, US Army, served his Fellowship at USDC, Northern District of California Pro Se Department. He attended UC Hastings College of the Law.

Christopher Ryan Childress, US Marine Corps, served his Fellowship at the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Northern District of Texas. He attended SMU Dedman School of Law.

Jacqueline C. Coplen, US Army JAG Corps, served her Fellowship at the DOJ Civil Rights Division's Service members and Veterans Initiative. She attended University of Virginia School of Law.

In our 2013 Fellowship Class, **Justin Vance Lee, US Army**, served his Fellowship at the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Northern District of Texas. He attended SMU Dedman School of Law.

In our 2012 Fellowship Class, we had three veterans:

Julie A. Jacobs, US Air Force, served her Fellowship at the Denver Department of Human Services. She attended University of Colorado Law School.

Stephen Collins Harrington, US Navy, served his Fellowship at the Attorney General of the Northern Mariana Islands. He attended SMU Dedman School of Law.

DeNealia H. Cunningham-Peterson, US Navy, served her Fellowship at the African Refugee Development. She attended Howard University School of Law.

In our 2006 Fellowship Class, we had two veterans:

Colby Emerson Barrett, US Marine Corps, served his Fellowship at the U.S. Import Administration Trade Remedy Compliance Staff. He attended The George Washington University Law School.

Michael Wautlet, US Navy, served his Fellowship at the U.S. Department of State/Embassy in Conakry, Guinea. He attended the University of Colorado Law School.

Our Foundation selection process expresses a preference for these veteran Fellowship applicants who, through their Fellowship applications, express a continuing commitment to promote public service and pro bono work through their pursuit of a legal career.

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