

**2017 Carl L. McConnell Summer Fellowship
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Redwood City, CA**

Organization

The mission of the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County is to fight social injustice through civil legal advocacy for people living in poverty. We believe every person should have the basic necessities of life, including safe affordable housing, access to health care, economic security, secure immigration status, an appropriate education, and freedom from violence and abuse. We strive to empower people to overcome the causes and effects of poverty so they can participate in their community with dignity and respect. We seek to remove barriers related to poverty, disability, race, language, age, gender, sexual orientation and immigration status through community education, legal representation, systemic advocacy and collaboration with community partners.

Legal Aid is an integral part of San Mateo County's safety net and has a history of successfully collaborating with community agencies, local governments, health care providers and pro bono attorneys to provide coordinated services to low-income residents.

Fellowship: The fellowship is named in memory of Carl L. McConnell, who had a special connection with the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County throughout his career. Following his graduation from Yale Law School in 1968, Carl came to Legal Aid for three years as a Reginald Heber Smith Community Law Fellow. After two years directing the Health Law Clinic at the University of Pennsylvania, he returned to Legal Aid, where he served as a Managing Attorney for seven years. In 1980, Carl and two other former Legal Aid attorneys formed a law partnership, and they practiced together in Palo Alto for sixteen years. From 1996 until his retirement in 2010, Carl was of counsel at Hoge, Fenton, Jones and Appel in San Jose. During his years in private practice, he maintained close ties to Legal Aid, providing advice on complex matters of litigation, and he received Legal Aid's Guardian of Justice Award in 2002.

This fellowship, generously funded in Carl's memory by his friends and colleagues, reflects Carl's commitment to legal services for those with limited resources, fundamental principles as an attorney—integrity, social justice, and fairness—and dedication to mentoring.

Legal Aid is inviting current law students to work with and learn from our attorneys in our housing or medical-legal partnership program. The 2017 Carl L. McConnell Summer Fellow will work with Legal Aid attorneys for 10 weeks in one of the following areas:

- Housing, direct services intern: Assist with tenant counseling at community clinics and eviction defense litigation (court experience for certified law students).
- Housing, anti-displacement policy support: Assist with collection and analysis of data from eviction case records to support periodic reporting and policy recommendations.
- Family Advocacy Project: Work with a multi-disciplinary team through our Medical-Legal Partnership to use legal strategies to address the social determinants of health for low-income children and families. Summer fellows will assist in the direct representation of low-income clients on a range of issues, including assistance with public benefits, special education, and access to health care. Fellows will meet regularly with medical providers and clients.

Qualifications:

- Currently enrolled in law school (first and second year students welcome to apply)
- Demonstrated commitment to public interest law
- Excellent writing and research skills

Compensation:

- The 10-week Carl L. McConnell Summer Fellowship includes a \$5,000 stipend.

Application Procedures: Email a cover letter that includes your area of interest, resume, and a letter of reference to: fellowships@legalaidsmc.org.