

## **Eligibility Criteria**

To be considered for the 2017 Equal Justice Works Public Interest Awards, applicants must:

- Be a current law student at an Equal Justice Works member school
- Have a demonstrated commitment to public interest law and pro bono work

The following activities are illustrative of the qualifications that could comprise a successful application:

- Extraordinary service as an intern, extern, or pro bono volunteer with a legal service provider
- Development of a pro bono or public interest project
- Founding, creating, or leading a student-run organization dedicated to pro bono or public interest law
- Expanding an existing pro bono or public interest program

## **Application Process**

Applications will open from **January 16, 2017** to **March 3, 2017**. All applicants will be required to submit a:

1. **Personal Statement** describing the applicant's outstanding public interest legal work in service to disadvantaged or marginalized groups and significant contributions to closing the justice gap (2 page limit)
2. **Two References** who are familiar with the applicant's work – preferably law school faculty members, supervising attorneys, or anyone who can accurately and knowledgeably describe the applicant's commitment to public service (see Addendum)

We will forward this information to all NAC members.

## **Selection Criteria**

Award recipients will be recognized for their exceptional contributions and achievements in one or more of the following areas:

### **Commitment**

*An extraordinary commitment to service to public service as: an intern, extern, or pro bono volunteer with a legal service provider; the developer of a pro bono or public interest project; a founder or leader of a student-run organization; a leader of an existing pro bono or public interest program*

*(30 points)*

## **Impact**

*The quality of work performed as a public interest law student and the significance of their work on the community, fellow students, and law school*

*(30 points)*

## **Creativity/ Originality**

*New, expanded, or unique improvements on the traditional delivery of public interest or pro bono legal services*

*(15 points)*

## **Permanence/Replicability**

*Likelihood that the student's project will be continued beyond their tenure in law school and/or could be implemented by other law students or legal service providers*

*(15 points)*

## **Longevity**

*Long-term interest in becoming a nonprofit, government, or public interest attorney or continuing to participate in pro bono activities throughout a legal career*

*(10 points)*

## **Review Process**

### **February 2017**

The National Advisory Committee members will begin to review submitted applications from their respective region and follow up as necessary with potential awardees. Each region of Committee members are free to review applications by whatever method they see fit (conference call, Skype, Gchat, email, etc.).

Each applicant has the potential to score 100 points. The highest-scoring applicant from each region will receive a 2017 Equal Justice Works Public Interest Award.

If more information is needed to make a decision, the National Advisory Committee may choose to contact the applicant's two accompanying references.

Recusal is allowed for National Advisory Committee members who find themselves reviewing a personal contact's application. Recusals, and the selection of an alternative reviewer, will be provided on a case-by-case basis.

**March 2017**

The National Advisory Committee members will forward the selected award winners' application packages to Equal Justice Works for review.

After approval, each region is free to announce the winners and arrange logistics for the awards ceremony.