

Conference & Career Fair Talking Points



For three decades Equal Justice Works has created opportunities for public interest lawyers committed to building a more just society. We believe that the poorest and most vulnerable among us deserve the same access to justice and quality legal representation as the privileged. To achieve this, we offer a continuum of opportunities for law students and lawyers that provide the training and skills that enable them to provide effective representation to underserved communities and causes.

General Information

- The **Equal Justice Works Conference & Career Fair** is the largest national public interest legal career fair in the country.
- Equal Justice Works has hosted the annual Conference & Career Fair for more than 20 years.
- The **Career Fair** portion of the event hosts formal interviews with government, legal aid, and nonprofit organizations for internships and postgraduate jobs.
- The **Conference** portion of the event will host sessions on debt relief for law graduates, panel discussions on a wide variety of legal issues, and a student convening on using social entrepreneurship to improve access to justice.
- The Career Fair also hosts “**Table Talk**,” an informal open period of time where employers are available to speak with students on a first-come, first-served basis. It’s a great way to introduce yourself to a potential future employer.

- It's possible for Career Fair attendees to receive a follow-up interview or job after talking to an employer during the informal Table Talk period!
- Conference & Career Fair attendees can [make a hotel reservation online](#) to take advantage of our exclusive rate at the Crystal Gateway Marriott.

Registration Information

- Students, law graduates, law school professionals, and legal service organizations can [register online](#).
- The first 500 registrants enter for a chance to win a [\\$100 travel stipend](#).
- When registering, students and law grads can also apply for open internships and jobs with registered employers until September 14th.
- Career Fair employers will review and select interview applicants from September 15 until October 1.
- The interview application period closes on October 7th, but students and recent grads can still register for Table Talk and workshops.
- All questions can be sent to careerfair@equaljusticeworks.org.

Conference & Career Fair Resources

- There are guides available for all registrants on how to use our online system: see the [Student/Graduate Registration & Application Guide](#) and [Employer Registration & Job Posting Guide](#) for more instructions.
- Students and recent graduates can view a list of currently [registered employers here](#).
- Equal Justice Works has a webinar on “[Job Search and Application Tips to Land the Interview](#)” – check out the recording [here](#)!
- We'll be hosting another webinar, “[Interviewing & Networking Tips to Land the Job](#),” in the early fall. Students can [sign up here](#) to receive email alerts about our upcoming webinars.
- Equal Justice Works has a timeline of [Key Dates and Deadlines on our website](#).

Table Talk Information

- **Table Talk** is an informal open period of time where employers are available to speak with students on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Many people have secured interviews and job offers from meetings during Table Talk.
- Table Talk is a great way to introduce yourself to a potential future employer without having a formal interview!
- It's best to view Table Talk as an **"informational interview,"** where students can have a conversation with potential employers about internships and postgraduate opportunities.
- Even though Table Talk doesn't host formal interviews, treat this time as if there's a job on the line. You could get great leads on new jobs from Table Talk, so always be professional!
- Before the Career Fair, look at the list of [registered employers](#) and identify the organizations you want to speak with during Table Talk. **Research the potential employers** and ask informed questions.
- Get business cards and **send thank-you and follow-up emails**. This can go a long way in proving your dedication to a specific job or issue area.

Why Law Students Should Attend

- Attendees have the chance to connect with over 160 employers and **get hired for their dream job!**
- There are **networking opportunities** with hundreds of public interest lawyers, law students, community organizers, legal advocates, and more.
- Students have the opportunity to hear from notable speakers throughout the two-day event. The 2016 keynote speaker is **Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan and Ralph Nader** will serve as the opening speaker.
- There are a variety of **skills trainings, workshops, panels, and break-out sessions** to learn more about the world of public interest law, Public Service Loan Forgiveness, social entrepreneurship, and more.
- Registered students have the opportunity to participate in a **Pro Bono Service Day** with Equal Justice Works and D.C.-area public interest lawyers.