



SABA-NC

THE SOUTH ASIAN BAR ASSOCIATION
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Public Interest Fellowship

Updated February 2021

Introduction

The South Asian Bar Association of Northern California (“SABA-NC”) strives to advocate for the South Asian community, promote alliances among South Asian legal professionals in Northern California and throughout the nation, support those who value diversity in the legal profession, assist law students and those interested in the law, provide information to members on careers and the legal market in Northern California, and provide an avenue for professionals and other community leaders to take an interest in matters of concern to South Asian attorneys.

The SABA-NC Foundation (“SABA-NC Foundation”) is the charitable arm of the South Asian Bar Association of Northern California. It was established in 1999 to support SABA-NC’s community outreach and advocacy programs. SABA-NC Foundation’s mission is to promote access to justice for all people in the community, particularly those struggling with economic crisis, abuse, and discrimination. SABA-NC Foundation is the embodiment of SABA-NC’s commitment to this fundamental principle. It accomplishes this mission by providing fellowships and grants to law students, recent law graduates, and organizations that seek to provide quality legal services and address unmet legal needs in the South Asian community and the Northern California community-at-large.

SABA-NC Foundation is proud to sponsor the following fellowships for current law students and recent graduates (defined as an individual within six months of graduation from law school). All grants are issued on a rolling basis, subject to board approval. SABA-NC Foundation may award up to (i) \$4,000 to selected law student candidates and (ii) \$5,000 to selected recent graduates for post-bar opportunities. Fellowships will be awarded on a rolling basis so applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as they can confirm a position at a public interest agency. Applications are considered holistically though particular emphasis is placed on responses to the essay questions.

Fellowship Criteria

Public Interest Post-Bar Fellowship: SABA-NC Foundation provides financial assistance in the form of a post-bar fellowship for recent graduates who have just completed the bar and who will be working at a public interest or government agency. The primary purpose of the fellowship is to help fund a recent graduate from an ABA-accredited law school who is currently awaiting results of state bar exam in pursuing an internship with a public interest organization or government agency in Northern California. The purposes of the fellowship are to improve the representation of South Asian attorneys in the public interest and government sectors and to better address the unmet legal needs of the South Asian community. Factors for consideration in awarding fellowship grants include:

- Completion of the attached application, including responses to the two (2) essay questions;
- Demonstrable employment at a public interest organization or government agency (you will be asked to show evidence of this);
- Demonstrated commitment to public interest law;
- A personal connection (either through employment, law school, or other) to Northern California; and
- Impact on the South Asian community, either through the applicant's personal commitment to public service or through the position's focus on the needs of the South Asian community.

Public Interest Student Fellowship: SABA-NC Foundation Public Interest Fellowship provides a stipend for students in good standing at an ABA-accredited law school to spend a summer or a term during law school working with public interest law organizations or government agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area. Factors for consideration:

- Completion of the attached application, including responses to the two (2) essay questions;
- Demonstrable anticipated employment at a public interest organization or

- government agency (you will be asked to show evidence of this);
- Demonstrated commitment to public interest law;
 - A personal connection (either through employment, law school, or other) to Northern California; and
 - Impact on the South Asian community, either through the applicant's personal commitment to public service or through the position's focus on the needs of the South Asian community.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much can I get through a SABA-NC Foundation grant?

Law students can be awarded up to \$4,000 for a Public Interest Student Fellowship and recent graduates can be awarded up to \$5,000 for a Public Interest Post-Bar Fellowship.

Do I need to have a high GPA in order to be awarded a fellowship?

We grant fellowships based on holistic criteria that take into account the applicant's financials, their commitment to public interest work, and their overall ability to pursue this commitment on a longer term. GPA is just one of many factors that are considered.

Will my ability to get prospective funding from other sources be taken into account?

Yes. Please list other potential avenues or sources of funding apart from your intended public interest group (e.g. law school grants, funding from other bar associations) in your application. Such funding will be given consideration among other factors.

Do I need to be of South Asian descent to get a fellowship grant?

No. SABA-NC Foundation does not discriminate based on race, gender, religion, or nationality. However, we prefer the applicant and/or the work to have a link to the South Asian community. This may be in the form of the public interest group where the applicant intends to be employed.

Do I need to attend a Northern California law school?

While there is no requirement for grantees to attend a Northern California law school, preference may be given to applicants who have a personal connection (either through employment, law school, or other) to Northern California.

Is there a deadline to apply?

No. All grants are issued on a rolling basis and applications are reviewed monthly.

How do I apply?

Complete the attached application and submit all required materials to foundation.sabanc@gmail.com.

Application

Applicants must submit the following materials:

- (1) Completed application form;
- (2) Responses to the two (2) essay questions;
- (3) Resume with two (2) professional references;
- (4) Details of employment;
- (5) Completed financial information form;
- (6) Unofficial law school transcript;
- (7) Letters of recommendation from professors and/or those with whom you have worked in a professional capacity (**OPTIONAL**); and
- (8) Other evidence of financial need (**OPTIONAL**).

Application materials may be sent on a rolling basis to **foundation.sabanc@gmail.com**.

The act of applying for the fellowship constitutes a release of the submitted application and follow-up materials and consent to SABA-NC Foundation for any reasonable publication of information contained in such materials. SABA-NC Foundation reserves the right in its sole discretion to change the number of fellowships awarded or the dollar amount awarded.

One or more members of SABA-NC Foundation Board may interview finalists. All applicants will be notified of the Board's determinations on their applications.

In the absence of demonstrated economic hardship or other extenuating circumstances, a recipient shall receive two-thirds of a fellowship award at the commencement of an internship and one-third at the conclusion of the internship. Prior to being awarded the final sum, the recipient shall submit the following items to SABA-NC Foundation: (1) a written statement (approximately 300 words or less) describing the services rendered by the recipient and the benefits afforded by the internship to the South Asian community or the Northern California

community-at-large; (2) a photo of the recipient for the SABA-NC website; and (3) a brief bio for the SABA-NC website. This information should be sent at the conclusion of the internship to **foundation.sabanc@gmail.com**.

The fellowship recipient must immediately notify SABA-NC Foundation in writing if the recipient (a) leaves the position listed in their application, (b) changes employers, (c) materially changes the nature of the work, (d) ceases to work for the required number of hours (as described in the Fellowship Employer form below), or (e) becomes subject to academic discipline or ceases to be enrolled in law school. In its discretion, SABA-NC Foundation shall determine whether forfeiture of the fellowship or a modification of the terms or amount of the award is appropriate. A recipient's failure to comply with SABA-NC Foundation policies and/or the conditions of the fellowship may result in the forfeiture of the entire award or a portion thereof.

**SABA-NC FOUNDATION
FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION**

1. Name of Applicant:

Law School:

Graduation Year:

Email Address:

In-School Address:

Permanent Address:

Telephone Number:

2. Are you receiving funding from additional sources (e.g., law school scholarships/grants, funding from other bar associations)?

YES

NO

3. If you answered "YES" to the previous question, please explain.

4. Essay Questions

Note: Please limit your responses to each question to approximately 300 words or less. Responses to the essay questions will be given considerable weight during the application evaluation process.

- a. Have you previously served and/or plan to serve the South Asian community or the Northern California community-at-large, through public interest work, personal commitment, or otherwise? Please describe.

- b. Provide names of the organization(s) you will be interning/employed with and describe the scope of your duties at each organization. Describe how you would positively impact the South Asian community through your internship or employment.

5. Attach your resume with two (2) references.
6. Provide verification of internship/employment.
7. Submit a completed SABA-NC Foundation Financial Information Form.
8. Submit your most recent (unofficial) law school transcript.
9. **(Optional)** You may submit letters of recommendation from professors and/or those with whom you have worked in a professional capacity, and/or additional evidence of financial need (such as FAFSA forms or IRS tax forms) if you would like the Foundation Board to consider these materials in reviewing your application.

I, the undersigned applicant, certify that all statements and information contained herein and in all application materials are true, correct and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I, the undersigned applicant, understand that if I receive a SABA-NC Foundation Fellowship and if (a) I cease to work for the number of hours set forth above, and as described in the Fellowship Employer Form, (b) the nature of the work changes materially, (c) I change or leave the internship, (d) I become subject to academic discipline or cease to be enrolled in law school, or (e) I receive funding for the internship that I had not previously identified in the application, I must immediately provide written notice of such event or condition to the SABA-NC Foundation at **foundation.sabanc@gmail.com**.

Print Name of Applicant

Signature of Applicant

Date

PLEASE RETURN ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS TO:

SABA-NC FOUNDATION

foundation.sabanc@gmail.com

UNLESS A DEADLINE HAS BEEN POSTED ELSEWHERE, ALL APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED ON A ROLLING BASIS

SABA-NC FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP
INTERNSHIP/EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION FORM

This form must be submitted as part of the application for a SABA-NC Fellowship. Please attach an offer letter or equivalent if available. SABA-NC reserves the right to contact your employer to verify the information.

Employer Name:

Employer Address:

Immediate Supervisor (IS):

IS Telephone Number:

Is the Employer a Non-Profit Organization?

YES

NO

Type of Position Offered to Applicant:

Nature of Project/Work to be performed by applicant:

Start Date of Project/Work:

End Date of Project/Work:

Total Number of Hours for Project/Work:

SABA-NC FOUNDATION
FINANCIAL INFORMATION FORM

Whether you have elected to include your most recent FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or the applicable most recent IRS tax forms, please provide the information requested below.

<i>A. Total amount of financial aid awarded for the most recent academic year</i>	
<i>A-1 Total amount of grants, fellowships, and scholarships for the most recent academic year</i>	
<i>B. Total income for most recent available tax year (not including financial aid)</i>	
<i>C. Expected income from position (including grant and fellowship money not previously included in Items A or A-1)</i>	
<i>D. Total estimated education expenses for the most recent academic year (Tuition, Books, etc.)</i>	
<i>E. Monthly rent/mortgage payment (if applicable)</i>	