

**INSTRUCTIONS: TO USE THIS TEMPLATE, DOWNLOAD A COPY AND SAVE AS A NEW DOCUMENT. INSERT YOUR NAME IN THE FOOTER OF THIS DOCUMENT. ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT AND ANSWERED THE PROMPTS, DELETE THE INSTRUCTIONS AND SAVE THE DOCUMENT AS A .PDF FOR SUBMISSION.**

**To insert your name in the footer, on the ribbon click Insert > Footer > Edit Footer or you can double click in the footer and write over the yellow text with your name.**

**(Tip: We recommend that you answer and save your responses to the questions/prompts, and have your resume both saved in .PDF form before you fill out and submit the [application form](#).**

(Note: Most systems require you to save your document in a word or text format, then convert to a .pdf.)

**General Statement Formatting:** Single-spaced, 12pt or 14pt font (Aptos or Arial), 1-inch margins, saved as a .pdf. Insert your name in the footer of the document.

**Purpose:** This is your opportunity to tell us a bit about yourself, your experiences, your interest in law, policy and/or disability rights. After reading your application, we should be able to understand why you are passionate about pursuing law school. Include any personal or work experience that motivates you – addressing the below items in your responses will help us better understand your “why”.

Reviewing the learning outcomes of the fellowship may help you with some of your responses – those can be found on pages 3-4 of this document.

**Structure/Prompt:** Answer questions #1-5 below. Type your answer directly under each corresponding question. Do NOT delete the questions from your document. Limit each answer to questions #1-5 to 250 words. (Do not include the question in the word count.) Answer question #6 or the personal statement prompt below. Limit your answer to 700 words. (Tip: In Word, click “Review > Word Count”).

**1) Why are you interested in learning about U.S. disability rights law and policy? (250 word limit)**

**2) Why do you want to go to law school? (250 word limit)**

**3) Although the disability rights field encompasses many concerns, which primary issue holds your strongest interest? (250 word limit)**

**4) Continuing to pursue higher education is difficult: describe what keeps you going. (250 word limit)**

**5) What do you hope to achieve by the end of the Law Fellowship? (250 word limit)**

**6) Personal statement: Use this space to tell us more about you. You are welcome to (a) tell us about the most important professional / work experiences you've had. This includes volunteer work, internships, research assistantships, and other professional experiences, (b) tell us about a course, lesson, or mentor from your educational experience that has had an impact on you and guides your future interests , (c) expand upon any of the prompt from questions #1-5, and/or (d) relay any additional information about your lived experience or motivation for wanting to pursue legal education. (700 word limit).**

## **Coelho Law Fellowship Purpose**

The Coelho Law Fellowship exists to:

- **Increase representation** of persons with disabilities in the legal profession, including attorneys, judges, public servants, and law professors.
- **Amplify attention** on ableism, disability rights and justice, and the disability community within the legal field.
- **Address systemic barriers** and ableism in pre-law preparation, law school admissions, and the law school experience.

The Fellowship Program introduces undergraduate students to disability rights law and nurtures their interest in pursuing legal careers. It equips participants with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to successfully apply to and thrive in law school.

What makes the program unique is its commitment to fostering a **supportive, diverse peer community** of disabled students who grow together as leaders in disability rights and justice. Fellows receive not only practical tools and guidance for law school applications and matriculation but also mentorship that empowers them to envision themselves as future law students and legal professionals.

## **Coelho Law Fellowship Learning Outcomes**

### **Pre-Law Preparation:**

- Accuracy of expectations about the demands of law school
- Clarity about what it will take to succeed in law school
- Ability to make a well-informed decision whether to pursue law school
- Confidence that they can succeed in law school
- Personal commitment to going to law school
- Skills to succeed in one or more aspects of law school

### **Law School Skills:**

- Ability to read and outline a case using the FIRAC method
- Demonstrated understanding of the Socratic Method
- Confidence in joining discussion during law course

- Demonstrated understanding of how to apply the ruling of a case to a set of hypothetical facts
- Demonstrated understanding of and ability use a law course outline to study for an exam

**Leadership Development:**

- Increased peer community
- Increased disability advocacy network
- Knowledge/skills to navigate systemic ableism during law school
- Confidence in approaching law school as a vocal advocate for themselves and peers
- Demonstrated knowledge of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and current issues in disability rights law and policy