

Coelho Law Fellowship Application

2026-2027

Application Info

All applicant information will be collected via this form. Should you need an alternate format or submission method, please reach out to our team at CoelhoCenter@lmu.edu or (310) 568-6610. In addition to submitting your application via this form, applicants may be asked to participate in a short 20-minute interview in March 2026 to finalize the application process.

To complete your application:

- Fill out this form
- Upload a .pdf document of your short answers and personal statement
- Upload a .pdf of your resume

Both your short answers / personal statement document and your resume should be added to the file upload space provided at the end of this survey.

We recommend that you have your PDF document with your short answers / personal statement and a PDF of your resume prepared before filling out this form. The prompt for the short answers and personal statement [instructions are available here](#).

The Coelho Law Fellowship Program is open to anyone who identifies as a person with a disability* and is someone who plans to go to Law School. **We do not require proof of disability.*

For any questions or accommodation requests, please contact us at CoelhoCenter@lmu.edu or call 310-568-6610.

To download a Word or PDF document of this form, you can find them in [this folder](#) along with other application assets.

View dates and additional fellowship information below.

Purpose & Outcomes

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

Timeline

The Coelho Law Fellowship has evolved over the years. The 2026 application cycle will bring us our 8th Cohort of fellows.

To keep in line with student needs and our mission, the fellowship program continues to adapt.

The dates for this year are as follows:

- **December 23, 2025 - March 8, 2026:** Applications will be accepted
- **March 9 - 15, 2026:** Application review and interview scheduling
- **March 23 - April 3, 2026:** Interviews
- **April 30, 2026:** New cohort announced/Acceptance letters sent out
- **June 1, 2026:** Orientation Session
- **June 2, 2026:** Disability Rights Law (DRL) Class begins, M-Th, through June 25th
- **June 26 - July 12, 2026:** Work on Disability Rights Law Final
- **July 13, 2026:** DRL Final Due
- **July 21 & 23, 2026:** 1L Legal Writing Workshops
- **July 29, 2026:** 1L Memo Due (3-5 pages)
- **August 1, 2026:** Graduation

We have moved to a biennial format for our Coelho Law Fellowship Conference. The next conference will take place summer 2027 and cohorts 8 & 9 will be invited to participate together. The date for the conference is TBD.

Applicant Information

First Name *

Last Name *

Preferred First Name (if different from legal)

Pronouns (select or write in)

Hometown (City, State, Country) *

Current Address (Street, City, State, Country) *

Phone Number *

Primary E-mail - Your main / daily use E-mail *

Secondary E-mail - provide for backup *

Do you use any of the following apps or social media platforms? *

Select any / all that apply.

Instagram

TikTok

Facebook

LinkedIn

Threads

Bluesky

Teams

Discord

WhatsApp

N/A

Provide links / handles for any public social media accounts: *

Provide a link to your LinkedIn profile and to any public social media accounts. If your accounts are private, you don't need to provide them. (Write N/A if all your profiles are private).

Are you an LMU Student or Graduate? *

Yes

No

Do you hold any of the following identities? *

Select any / all that apply

US Veteran

1st Gen College Student

Non-traditional College Student

Parent

Caregiver

Foster youth (current or aged out)

N/A

Disability Identity *

Select any/all that apply, you can write in others in a subsequent question. If yours is not listed, select other.

Physical disability (e.g. paraplegia, amputee, multiple sclerosis, etc.)

Intellectual and/or developmental disability (e.g. intellectual disability, Autistic, Down syndrome, language and learning disabilities, cerebral palsy)

Psychiatric disability (e.g. depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, etc.)

Sensory disability (e.g. blind, deaf, blind-deaf, hard of hearing, etc.)

Medical condition (e.g. Alzheimer's, cancer, autoimmune disorder, epilepsy, brain injury, etc.)

Other disability not listed above

Racial Identity/ies *

Select all that apply, or write in your own in the next question.

African American

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian
Hispanic or Latino
Black
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
White
Bi-racial
Multiracial
Other
Decline to state

List any marginalized / intersecting identities that shape your lived experience: *

Using your own words, list anything here that will help us understand your intersectional experience, you can also write N/A if you found previous sections sufficient or decline.

Are you a current college undergraduate student? *

Yes
No

 **Current college student** (if answered yes above):

First / Freshman
Second / Sophomore
Third / Junior
Fourth / Senior
Fifth / Senior
Sixth or more

What college do/did you attend? *

Graduation Month and Year (Expected or past): *

What is your major / field of study? (Inc. Minor) *

Indicate any degrees / education certificates you hold or are in progress: *

High School Diploma

In Progress - Associate's Degree

Completed - Associate's Degree

In Progress - Bachelor's Degree

Completed - Bachelor's Degree

In Progress - Master's Degree

Completed - Master's Degree

In Progress - PhD / EdD (Doctoral level)

Completed - PhD / EdD (Doctoral level)

Post-graduate certificate

Post-graduate fellowship

Other

What is your student status? (US Domestic, International, Other) *

This is for classification purposes and has no bearing on eligibility.

US College Domestic Student

US College International Student

International Applicant (International College Student/Resident)

Other

Which statements describe your relationship with Law School? *

Select all the statements that apply to you:

I am not sure about law school

I am thinking about law school as an option among many

- I will definitely apply to law school
- I have an LSAC Account
- I am studying for the LSAT on my own
- I am taking or have taken an LSAT study course
- I have taken the LSAT
- I am taking the LSAT again
- I have participated in a pre-law fellowship program
- I have attended a virtual or in-person law school admissions program
- I have already applied to law school
- I have been accepted to Law School
- I will take gap year(s) before law school
- I plan to go to law school directly after undergrad
- I plan to pursue other graduate studies before law school

References

Please provide 2 references, professional or academic.

Your references should be able to speak to your ability to be successful in this program and eventually law school.

Reference 1 - First and Last Name *

Reference 1 - Email Address *

Reference 1 - Phone Number *

Reference 1 - How do you know this person? *

Reference 2 - First and Last Name *

Reference 2 - Email Address *

Reference 2 - Phone Number *

Reference 2 - How do you know this person?

Short Answers / Personal Statement & Resume

Upload your short answers / personal statement and resume here (below). *

As part of your application, you will be required to **upload a document with your short answers and personal statement, plus a copy of your resume**. You will upload two documents in .pdf format. To upload you can drag and drop, or select upload and it will open document search for you to select the item.

[Use this link](#) to access application assets including word or .pdf documents of this application and the prompt.

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.

Structure/Prompts:

Answer questions #1-5 (250 word limit)

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 your word count.)

Answer question #6 (700 word limit)

personal statement prompt. 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 professionally related 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).

Drop your files here

Browse