



2024  
**RAPPAPORT  
FELLOWS  
PROGRAM**



**RAPPAPORT CENTER**  
FOR LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY  
**BOSTON COLLEGE | LAW**

# Overview

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Jerome Lyle and Phyllis Rappaport



The Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy brings together state, local, and national thought leaders, public officials, scholars, practitioners, and policy makers to address significant issues of law and public policy. To inspire future leaders, the Center also runs the Rappaport Fellows

Program which provides 12 students from law schools throughout Massachusetts with opportunities and funding to work on law and policy issues in a state or local government agency during the summer.

*Visit [bc.edu/rappaport](https://bc.edu/rappaport) to learn more about our work.*



2023 Rappaport Fellows with Phyllis Rappaport, Rappaport Faculty Director Daniel Kanstroom, Rappaport Executive Director Elisabeth J. Medvedow, and Administrative Assistant Abigail Chingo.

# Summer Fellowship Program

Rappaport Fellows are afforded experiences that connect the practical and intellectual elements of public policy, public service, and civic leadership. The Program encompasses five major components:

1. Interning for 10 weeks in a state or local government office working on law and public policy issues relevant to the Greater Boston region and/or Massachusetts;
2. Engaging in weekly forums that provide a look at the myriad ways public sector lawyers and public officials make a difference.
3. Connecting with mentors from the Rappaport Center community—Rappaport Center Advisory Board members, prior Fellows, government officials, and civic leaders – who are paired with Fellows based on interests and experiences.
4. Completing the Program final evaluation.
5. Contributing a blog post during the summer.

Fellows receive a \$10,000 stipend (taxable) for participating in the Program.

**Additional Funding Opportunity:** the 2024 Rappaport Fellows will have an opportunity to apply for grant funding to write a 20-25 page research paper on an interesting or unresolved question of law and public policy related to Fellowship work. Fellows whose papers are accepted and completed satisfactorily will receive a \$2,000 grant, in addition to the stipend.

“The Rappaport Fellowship fueled my passion for public policy while providing me with the opportunity to increase my legal skills and network. I am ending this summer more confident in my ability to make a difference through public policy lawyering.”

Ally Crays, Northeastern University  
School of Law, 2023 Rappaport Fellow



# Internships

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Fields in which internships may be obtained include, but are not limited to:

- Civil Rights
- Criminal Justice
- Data Privacy
- Education
- Employment and Labor
- Environment
- Health Care
- Housing
- Mental Health
- Youth Advocacy

## Examples of Past Internships:

- Committee for Public Counsel Services
- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Governor's Office of Legal Counsel
- Governor's Office of Cabinet Affairs and Strategic Planning
- Massachusetts Attorney General's Office
- Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination
- Massachusetts Department of Transportation
- Massachusetts Department of Children and Families
- Massachusetts Health Policy Commission
- Mayor's Office, City of Boston
- Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement
- State Senators' Offices
- Suffolk County District Attorney's Office

*\*Applicants should be applying for summer internships independent of the process of submitting an application for a Rappaport Fellowship.*

## Mentor

Each Rappaport Fellow is paired with a mentor, carefully selected based on the Fellow's interests and experiences. The mentor, a well respected member of the legal community, is chosen from among our Advisory Board, prior Rappaport Fellows, and on occasion, outside practitioners.



*The 2023 Rappaport Fellows with Anthony Benedetti, Chief Counsel, Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS) and Rappaport Center Advisory Board Member.*

# Experiential Learning Opportunities

The Rappaport Fellows meet weekly during June and July to experience different areas where law and public policy converge. Senior attorneys, judges, government officials, and community leaders often participate in the weekly programs to share their experiences, insights, and advice. The Rappaport Center Fellows become part of an interdisciplinary community through a partnership with Harvard Kennedy School's Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston, which runs a similar Fellows program for graduate non-law students interested in public policy. During the summer, the two groups of Fellows frequently meet together for the weekly forums.

## Examples of Past Experiential Learning Opportunities:

Meetings with:

- Chief Justice, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court
- Lieutenant Governor
- Massachusetts Attorney General
- Massachusetts Governor
- Mayor of Boston

**“The Fellowship was an amazing experience for me and truly solidified my desire for public service. Both the internship and the weekly Rappaport events were spectacular. Most importantly, connecting with the other Fellows in my cohort really inspired me, and affirmed my belief that public servants include many of the best and brightest our society has to offer.”**

**Ethan FitzGerald, Boston University School of Law,  
2023 Rappaport Fellow**

# Mandatory Events

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Fellows are required to attend an orientation meeting (April), the Welcome Reception (May), the weekly experiential sessions, and the Celebration of Fellows dinner (late July or early August). The experiential learning opportunities are generally scheduled for Thursday afternoons from 3-5 p.m. Some programs are held at other times and occasionally require a half-day commitment. Rappaport Fellows are typically permitted to leave work early in order to participate.

Dates will be finalized prior to the selection of finalists. Fellows are asked to be prepared to accommodate changes in their summer schedule.

# Eligibility and Selection Process

Any law student who is a J.D. candidate in good standing at an eligible law school (Boston College, Boston University, Harvard, New England, Northeastern, Suffolk, UMass, and Western New England) and who is not in the final year of law school may apply for a Rappaport Fellowship. The selection process for Rappaport Fellows is competitive. We seek applicants with strong academic records, demonstrated commitment to public service as shown by past professional or volunteer experiences as well as extracurricular activities, and potential for leadership.

Although we cannot guarantee that every law school will be represented in each selected class of Rappaport Fellows, we are committed to the fair and inclusive distribution of Fellowships among the eligible law schools. Finalists are invited for interviews.



The 2023 Rappaport Center Law Fellows and Rappaport Institute Public Policy Fellows with Mayor Michelle Wu, a 2010 Rappaport Center Law Fellow.

# Applications

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A complete application package includes each of the following:

- Resume (no more than two pages);
- A personal statement explaining your passion and commitment to public policy and why you believe you would be an excellent Rappaport Fellow. Personal statements should also include your public policy interest areas (if determined) and any placement you have already obtained or agencies where you have an interest in being placed. Statements should not exceed two double-spaced pages.
- Names and current contact information for two professional and/or academic references.
- Law school transcript. Applicants should provide all law school grades available at the time the application is due and should update their application with any additional grades finalized after the application deadline. First-year law students must also submit their undergraduate transcript. Applicants who have graduate degrees may submit their graduate transcript instead of their undergraduate transcript. Unofficial transcripts are accepted.

Applications are due Thursday, January 18, 2024, by 5 p.m. (EST).

To apply, complete the online application: [Tinyurl.com/RappaportApp24](https://tinyurl.com/RappaportApp24)

Photographs are frequently taken throughout the summer and shared on our social media platforms.

*Thank you for your interest in the Rappaport Fellows Program!*

**The Rappaport Fellowship was on my radar even before I applied to law school, and still the program exceeded my expectations. Every component of the Program — the cohort, internship placements in state and local government, weekly outings, and mentorship — is thoughtfully designed to create an engaging 10-week deep dive into Massachusetts state and local government law and public policy.**

**Kaitlin “Kadie” Martin, Boston College Law School,  
2019 Rappaport Fellow**



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