

## **EARL J. SILBERT FELLOWSHIP SUMMER 2017**

The Silbert Fellowship is named for Earl J. Silbert, former president of the Council for Court Excellence, and is awarded to an individual studying at the graduate level who demonstrates a passion for improving the justice system as exemplified by Mr. Silbert throughout his career.

### **ABOUT EARL J. SILBERT**

Earl Silbert has had a distinguished legal career in the District of Columbia for more than 50 years. Long recognized as one of the premier members of the white collar criminal bar in the District of Columbia, his career has spanned public service, private practice, and voluntary service to the courts and legal profession. He has mentored and advised many attorneys throughout his career and is highly regarded for his wisdom, decency, graciousness, and professionalism. Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Silbert spent nearly 20 years in government service at the US Department of Justice in the Tax Division and Deputy Attorney General's Office, as an Assistant US Attorney, and as US Attorney for the District of Columbia (1974-79). While in the US Attorney's Office, he, together with two other Assistant US Attorneys, served as the first Watergate prosecutor.

In 2009, the Council for Court Excellence honored Mr. Silbert with the Justice Potter Stewart Award for his career-long work to improve the justice system. That same year, he was elected president of the Council for Court Excellence. He is currently a partner at DLA Piper LLP (US) in Washington, DC. He is an alumnus of Harvard University and Harvard Law School.

### **ABOUT THE COUNCIL FOR COURT EXCELLENCE**

The Council for Court Excellence is a nonprofit, nonpartisan civic organization that works to improve the administration of justice in the local and federal courts and related agencies in the District of Columbia. CCE identifies lasting solutions that help fulfill the promise of liberty and justice for all.

### **THE FELLOWSHIP (ONE POSITION FOR SUMMER 2017)**

The Council for Court Excellence seeks candidates who share CCE's mission to improve the justice system in the District of Columbia. The fellowship offers hands-on experience to exceptional graduate-level students planning a career in law or public policy with opportunities to:

- Strengthen their understanding of DC's justice system;
- Participate in the reform of local and federal justice system policies and practices affecting the jury system, civil case processing, administrative justice, and criminal and juvenile justice, among other issues;
- Improve, through educational programs and publications, the public's understanding of and ability to navigate DC's justice system; and
- Work with a dedicated staff and volunteer board of lawyers, business leaders, judges, and civic leaders in an environment that is collaborative and intellectually rigorous.

## GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Silbert Fellow will be engaged in substantive project work, including:

- Primary and secondary research of the local and federal justice systems' and associated agencies' policies and practices;
- Creating public education guides to help the public navigate various aspects of DC's justice system;
- Developing local and federal legislation pertaining to DC's justice system;
- Providing support to the various project committees through attending meetings, researching project leads, etc.; and
- Assisting with report release events and other program-related events as needed.

Please visit [www.courtexcellence.org](http://www.courtexcellence.org) for more information about CCE's programs.

## ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS

Graduate and law students are eligible for the Silbert Fellowship. Applicants should have experience in policy or legal research and interest in one or more of the following areas: public policy, law, government, courts, criminal justice, civil justice, or administrative justice.

## COMPENSATION AND DURATION

The Silbert Fellow will receive a stipend, thanks to the generosity of DLA Piper LLP (US). CCE will cover local public transportation costs. The fellowship is full time (37.5 hours/week), and CCE requires a minimum commitment of 10 consecutive weeks. The start date is somewhat flexible, but CCE expects the Silbert Fellow to begin in late May or early June.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND DEADLINE

Email **one PDF** document containing all of the items listed below to **Emily Tatro at [tatro@courtexcellence.org](mailto:tatro@courtexcellence.org)**. Applications will be considered until position is filled.

- Cover letter explaining interest with proposed start/end dates
- Résumé
- Current unofficial transcript
- Two letters of recommendation
- Legal, policy, or advocacy writing sample on any topic (no more than three pages; an excerpt is acceptable)
- Brief essays responding to each of the following (no more than 500 words each):
  - As a public servant and private practitioner, Earl Silbert has personified a dedication to justice and equality to which we at CCE aspire. How do your career goals align with this aspiration?
  - About which of CCE's program areas (Civil Justice, Criminal Justice, Youth Justice, Justice & Court Administration, or Community Education & Access to Justice) are you most passionate and why?
  - CCE's small but dedicated staff works in a collegial, collaborative environment; each staff member makes substantial contributions and takes on leadership roles for different projects. Describe an example from your professional or personal life that exemplifies your leadership skills and style.
  - Statement of financial need: Could you participate in this fellowship opportunity if it were not paid? Please indicate any other stipend sources from which you have secured funding for this opportunity or to which you intend to apply for funding.

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*Due to the high volume of applications, we are unable to respond to inquiries by telephone. CCE will contact only those candidates selected for an interview.*