



**Corporate Counsel Diversity  
Internship Committee**  
2026 Chair: Elizabeth. Shamponoi  
Email: elizabeth@shamponoiadr.com

**Host Organization:**  
JustCause

**The New York Bar Foundation**  
President: Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers

## **THE NEW YORK BAR FOUNDATION**

### **2026 JANA SPRINGER BEHE**

### **CORPORATE COUNSEL SECTION FELLOWSHIP**

#### **Fellowship Program Goals**

The Fellowship has been created as part of the Corporate Counsel Section's commitment to diversity and in conjunction with the New York State Bar Association's Diversity Challenge. The fellowship goal is twofold. First, to provide the selected organizations with the chance to have students from a diverse range of backgrounds provide assistance without cost and second, to provide students with an opportunity to experience in-house legal practice.

#### **Eligible Candidates**

A second-year law student from a New York law school from under-represented groups capable of fulfilling the requested work hours and responsibilities. A minimum GPA of 2.5, a letter of interest with a discussion about your personal commitment to diversity and how being from an under-represented group has impacted you along with a writing sample and the required documents listed below, will be required upon application.

#### **Host Organization 2026: JustCause**

The fellowship will take place at JustCause, 1 West Main Street, Rochester, New York. The JustCause agency serves clients within the Monroe County area in legal matters, referrals, and legal advice. JustCause's mission is to improve the quality of life of low-income people in Monroe County by ensuring the existence of a readily available panel of skilled attorneys from the private bar to resolve serious civil legal problems.

The selected student will assist the organization's general counsel (or other similar individual holding a counsel position) with matters relating to counsel or advice to the organization and will provide meaningful assignments to the student fellow from the Deputy Executive Director and other legal departments within the agency, as well as working with pro bono volunteer attorneys in the community.

#### **Program's Scope**

The Program shall operate during the summer of 2026, and the New York public interest legal or charitable organization will employ and pay the intern at least \$7,000 stipend or an hourly equivalent based on the hours required. The public interest legal or charitable organization must be the employer of the intern and must provide the intern with a W-2.

The program schedule is as follows:

<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Dates and Deadlines</b>
Student Application Deadline:	February 6, 2026
Fellow Selection and Presented to Foundation	March, 2026
Program Term	June – August 2026*

\*dates may vary slightly to accommodate individual circumstances

## **Student Fellow Responsibilities**

- Submit the following to The New York Bar Foundation: the Student Application Form (attached hereto), a copy of your resume, a current, unofficial law school transcript, a letter of interest with a discussion about your personal commitment to diversity and how being from an under-represented group has impacted you, and a writing sample. To be eligible, students must have earned a minimum GPA of 2.5.
- Complete the appropriate hours with an assigned host organization.
- Attend any Program related meetings/receptions, mentoring events and one reception to honor the fellow, law schools and host.
- Complete an evaluation of the Fellow Program.
- At the conclusion of the Fellowship, the recipient will be required to produce a summary evaluation report that may be produced as an article in the Corporate Counsel Section Newsletter and/or The Foundation's Newsletter.
- Granting to the New York State Bar Association ("NYSBA"), its Corporate Counsel Section and affiliated Committees the unrestricted right and permission to use, re-use, publish and republish my name, image, likeness and/or biography, which may be included intact or in part, through any and all media now or hereafter known, in connection with the activities, services, advertisements, promotion or any other purpose whatsoever related to the Internship Program. Such irrevocable grant of rights shall be affected by submission of this application.

## **Host Organization Responsibilities**

- Commit to the sponsorship of the fellow.
- Employ the student for approximately 315 hours during the summer.
- Identify a contact person for the Program.
- Screen and interview student candidates during the designated time period.
- Designate an attorney to serve as a Mentor for the student fellow who will work with, consult, advise, and guide the student fellow during his/her tenure with the Host Organization in the same manner as they do with other fellow and new lawyers.
- Exercise diligence and sensitivity to ensure that meaningful work assignments equivalent to those assigned to other fellow and young lawyers are delegated to the student intern.
- Evaluate the student fellow as they would with any other law fellow working for them.
- Send a representative from the organization to attend the annual reception held in July/August.
- Attend, if able to, any meetings held by the NYSBA's Corporate Counsel Section Diversity Internship Committee.
- Complete an evaluation of the Program and provide any information relevant to the Program requested by the Bar Foundation.

## **Fellowship Committee's Screening Process**

Among other responsibilities, the Fellowship Committee will consider the Host Organization's hiring criteria and the student's application based upon:

1. Content and quality of application materials.
2. Work experience.
3. Research, writing, analytical, communication and organizational skills.
4. Leadership experience.
5. Extracurricular activities and community service.
6. Academic record.
7. Student Fellow's interest in a particular Host Organization's legal practice.
8. Maturity, integrity, professionalism, and sensitivity to ethical concerns.
9. Any other relevant factors.



## 2026 Jana Springer Behe Corporate Counsel Section Fellowship Student Application Form

*Location of Fellowship:* JustCause, 1 West Main Street, Rochester, New York

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Law School: \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of interest (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to participate in the Fellowship Program, which shall **require**:

- Completion of approximately 315 hours with assigned Host Organization.
- Attendance at Fellowship Program related meetings and/or receptions, such as the yearly reception in July/August.
- Completion of an evaluation form rating the Fellowship Internship Program.
- At the conclusion of the Fellowship, the recipient will be required to produce a summary evaluation report that may be produced as an article in the Corporate Counsel Section Newsletter and/or the Foundation's Newsletter.
- Granting to the NYSBA, its Corporate Counsel Section and affiliated Committees the unrestricted right and permission to use, re-use, publish and republish my name, image, likeness and/or biography, which may be included intact or in part, through any and all media now or hereafter known, in connection with the activities, services, advertisements, promotion or any other purpose whatsoever related to the Internship Program. Such irrevocable grant of rights shall be affected by submission of this application.

### **Application Process**

The applicant **must** submit the following as a single PDF file:

1. Application Form
2. Resume
3. Unofficial, current law school transcript
4. Writing sample
5. Letter of interest with a discussion about your personal commitment to diversity and how being from an under-represented group has impacted you.

Email to: [Ldorr@tnybf.org](mailto:Ldorr@tnybf.org) no later than **Friday, February 6, 2026**

Please include 'CorpCounsel Fellowship' on the subject line. Files accepted in **single PDF format only**.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you hear of TNYBF Fellowship Opportunity? \_\_\_\_\_