Selection Criteria for the Michael Maggio Immigrants’ Rights Summer Fellowship Program

Host Sites
Fellowship host sites must be recognized non-profit organizations. These include:
- Nonprofit organizations serving low-income and underserved immigrant communities.
- Legal services organizations that serve immigrants.
- Civil rights organizations that advocate on behalf of immigrants.
- Community-based organizations that engage in pro-immigrant advocacy.

Fellowship Projects
Selection criteria include:
- Projects which provide direct legal services to low-income and underserved individuals, including intake, client and witness interviews, courtroom advocacy and legal research and writing.
- Projects which provide community education and outreach.
- Projects which advocate for more just and humane immigration laws and policies.

Fellows
Fellowship recipients must meet the following criteria:
- Law students enrolled in law school program.
- Demonstrated commitment to social justice and/or immigrants’ rights issues.

For more information about selection process and deadlines, and Application Forms: www.maggiofellowship.com.
About the Fellowship Program

The Michael Maggio Immigrants’ Rights Summer Fellowship was established jointly by the America Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law (CHRCL), and the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (NIP/NLG), to commemorate the life and legal contributions of Michael Maggio.

The Fellowship program will begin in 2010 with the selection of the first Fellowship recipient.

One summer fellowship will be awarded to a law student each summer. The Fellowship will include a $4,000 stipend, complimentary registration for the AILA annual conference, complimentary registration and a $250 travel stipend to attend the National Lawyers Guild annual conference.

The primary mission of the fellowship program is to strengthen law students’ long-term commitment to promote justice and equality for vulnerable immigrant groups.

Fellows will be chosen by the three sponsoring organizations, and will be selected based on the strength of their proposed host site and project.

For selection criteria and application forms, please go to www.maggiofellowship.com.

About Michael Maggio

Michael graduated from Antioch School of Law in 1978 and wasted no time before foraying into the struggle for social justice. His first office overlooked Adams Morgan, the heart of Washington DC’s immigrant community.

In 1980 Michael worked on the landmark Filartiga v. Pena case, which established for the first time that the U.S. courts have jurisdiction to hear damage cases against noncitizens for grave violations of human rights committed outside the United States. Dozens of human rights cases have built upon the Filartiga precedent bringing survivors of torture a measure of justice in the U.S. courts.

Michael began teaching law at Antioch, and it was there that he met Candace Kattar, who later became his wife and law partner. In the 1980s, Michael and Candace took up the legal defense of Central Americans caught in a web of U.S. policies that sought to deny them asylum and deport them to places where their lives were clearly in danger.

Maggio and Kattar quickly developed into an influential immigration law firm with a diverse and wide range of clients.

Michael’s loving heart and sharp intellect combined to make him an extraordinary lawyer, one who embraced a passion for social justice and perhaps an even greater passion for life.

Michael was active in the National Lawyers Guild, AILA, and served on the Board of Directors of the National Immigration Project. He was a dedicated supporter of CHRCL.

Michael died in February 2008 after a courageous battle with cancer.

To read more about Michael Maggio go to www.maggiofellowship.com.

About the Sponsoring Organizations

The America Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), is a national voluntary bar association of over 11,000 attorneys and law professors. AILA’s mission is to promote justice, advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, advance the quality of immigration and nationality law and practice, and enhance the professional development of its members. For more information, www.aila.org.

The Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law (CHRCL), is a Los Angeles-based non-profit litigation and advocacy program focusing on the fundamental rights of vulnerable and indigent communities including immigrants, refugees, children, indigenous peoples, and other insular minorities. The CHRCL engages in major class action litigation, technical support to legal services providers, training, and advocacy work. For more information, www.centerforhumanrights.org.

The National Immigration Project (NIP/NLG) of the National Lawyers Guild is a progressive source of advocacy-oriented legal support on immigrant rights issues. In the 1970s and 1980s the NIP focused its advocacy on asylum-seekers from Central America. In the 1990s, the NIP/NLG challenged the government’s use of secret evidence against noncitizens, and expanded its support for immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Project also advocates on behalf of HIV-positive noncitizens. Today it continues to specialize in defending the rights of immigrants facing incarceration and deportation. For more information, www.nationalimmigrationproject.org.