

THE PROJECT ON THE FOUNDATIONS OF PRIVATE LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

2024-2025

The Project on the Foundations of Private Law is calling for applications for student fellows for the academic year 2024-2025. Applications will be accepted until **Friday, September 20, 2024**. Decisions will be made on a rolling basis.

The Project and Student Fellowship. The Project on the Foundations of Private Law is an interdisciplinary research program at Harvard Law School dedicated to the academic investigation of private law. “Private law” embraces the traditionally common law subjects (property, contracts, and torts), as well as related subjects that are more heavily statutory, such as intellectual property and commercial law. It also includes areas of study that are today less familiar to students and scholars, including unjust enrichment, restitution, equity, and remedies. The Project aims to further study of these areas, their relationships to and distinctiveness from each other, and questions about the status and nature of private law as a whole. The Project draws on multiple disciplines outside law, including economics, history, cognitive science, and philosophy. It also encourages comparative work, especially involving Commonwealth and civil-law systems with explicit notions of private law. The Student Fellowship Program is designed to support student research in the areas identified above.

Eligibility. The student fellowship program is open to Harvard Law School students who are interested in pursuing careers related to the Project’s subject areas and who are planning to undertake a significant research project during their fellowship.

Writing. Student fellows are encouraged to conduct research projects designed to lead to publishable articles. Fellows normally produce at least one such paper by the end of the academic year. Papers written in connection with the fellowship can be also used to satisfy the Law School’s written work requirement or other optional writing credit by prior arrangement with, and final approval of, a faculty advisor who has agreed to supervise a fellow’s work for this purpose.

Curricular Component. Student fellows are strongly encouraged to enroll in courses related to private law and theory, and if possible to enroll or at least attend the Private Law Workshop to be held in the Spring of 2025. In addition, fellows will be expected to take part in occasional roundtable discussions, at which a private law topic will be discussed, sometimes in connection with an outside speaker. To the extent possible, fellows will also be expected to take advantage of opportunities to interact with speakers presenting in connection with the Project as well.

Resources. The Project will award each fellow a stipend of \$2,000. It will be paid at the end of the academic year, once all fellowship requirements are completed.

Application. To apply, email the following materials to Jennifer Minnich at **jminnich@law.harvard.edu**:

1. Your curriculum vitae;
2. A current transcript (unofficial is fine); and
3. A statement of interest and a brief proposal indicating the research topic you would like to pursue (maximum 1,500 words total).