



FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FAQs 2024-2025

What is the goal of the fellowship program?

LJJP's fellowship aims to help journalists improve their coverage of crime and law, including their coverage of courts, policing, public safety, public health, and broader criminal justice issues. Our goal is to help you produce stories that are accurate, evidence-based, fair, sensitive, and equitable.

How does the program work?

The fellowship consists of three parts:

- **Mentorship:** Throughout the fellowship, fellows will pursue a specific story with an experienced journalist who will serve as their mentor. Mentors will help fellows improve their investigation, story development, record seeking, sourcing, and more.
- **Training:** LJJP will offer virtual panels on a variety of topics, some of which are open only to fellows and others which are open to the public. (These are not mandatory.) For fellows only, we'll also have virtual Ask-the-Expert monthly (virtual) events. We will also provide you with access to experts on complicated topics in the legal system.
- **Networking:** Our program affords opportunities to form connections and partnerships with journalists and subject matter experts across the country. We host a slack channel where fellows can regularly ask experts and mentors questions as problems arise and brainstorm with one another.

What are the time commitments for fellows?

- We anticipate the time commitment will be approximately 4-8 hours per month. (We're trying to enhance your existing job rather than expecting you to do a second one.)

Do I produce content for LJJP?

- No. LJJP will help you produce content for your employer, freelance assignments, etc.

Who can apply?

We are looking for candidates who:

- Currently work in journalism: reporters, editors, photographers, TV/radio reporters, producers, etc!
- Have 1-5 years of experience: full-time, part-time, or freelance
- Strong interest in covering criminal and legal issues

Fellowship term

- July 2024 - June 2025

Compensation

- \$5,000/year; to be paid quarterly
- Compensation is designed to supplement current pay

Application process

- Please send the following in pdf form to izzy@ljjp.org
 - A cover letter that answers the following questions:
 - Why do you want to participate in the mentorship program?
 - What project do you want to pursue? We are looking for local stories that will make a major impact on the community you cover. They should be topic-specific (not just “a criminal justice issue”) and backed up with some reporting. But your idea does not have to be fully developed. It should be feasible to complete your project within a year in your newsroom. Your proposal should also be suited to benefiting from working with the mentor we will pair you with (an experienced journalist with a background in covering legal and criminal issues).
 - You may submit more than one proposal. Please keep each one to 500 words or less.
 - A resume
 - Three examples of your reported pieces
 - Three references
- Visit www.ljjp.org to for more information.
- **EXTENDED: Applications are due by June 28, 2024 @ 11:59pm EST**