

Application Instructions for the National Archives Legislative Archives Fellowship for 2012

Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero created the National Archives Legislative Archives Fellowship to support scholarly work in United States history that is based on research in the records of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The Foundation for the National Archives generously provided a total stipend of \$10,000 for the 2012 Fellowship.

Applications for the 2012 Fellowship are now being accepted and must be received by the deadline of midnight EDT May 16, 2012. The recipient will be named by July 1, 2012. Research proposals will be considered on any topic that uses the historical records of Congress housed at the National Archives Center for Legislative Archives. The records of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives support a wide range of topics and subfields including social policy, law-making, leadership, representation (petitioning, constituents, lobbying), and the context in which Congress operates (inter-governmental, political, social, and economic climate).

The Fellow will be supported by the Center for Legislative Archives staff and will have the opportunity to consult with the House and Senate History offices. The Fellow will make an initial presentation to the National Archives staff and local historians on the proposed plan of work and a second presentation on research findings at the end of the Fellowship tenure. The recipient will also maintain a blog about his/her Fellowship experience.

Fellowship Details

Amount: \$10,000

Tenure: The Fellowship requires a minimal residency of one month at the Center for Legislative Archives and additional research in records that complement the Center's holdings.

Eligibility: Ph.D. candidates whose dissertations have been approved by the application deadline and individuals who have received their Ph.D. within the last five years.

Deadline for Application: Applications will be received until midnight EDT May 16, 2012.

Submission: Applications should be emailed to the Center for Legislative Archives at legislative.archives@nara.gov with "Fellowship Application" in the subject line.

Application Requirements

Cover Letter: Your email message is the cover letter and should include the applicant's institutional affiliation, department and present position; date the applicant was admitted to Ph.D. candidacy and anticipated completion date of the dissertation or the institution and the year the Ph.D. was awarded; the title of the dissertation or manuscript; and the names and institutional affiliations of the writers of the letters of reference.

Fellowship Proposal: This is the most important part of your application. It should be sent as an attachment and be no more than four single-spaced pages in Times New Roman 12-point font

with 1-inch margins. Your name should appear in the upper left corner of the first page. The proposal should include:

Significance State the significance of the project, identify the questions or hypotheses driving the research, and make specific reference to previously published scholarship that will be revised or supplanted by the proposed project.

Project Description Elaborate on the topic, scope, organization, themes, and tentative conclusions of the project.

Plan for Archival Work At what stage is the project in the research and writing process? What records at the Center are relevant to the project? Explain how these records support the topic. Applicants should also identify records that complement the Center's, especially other National Archives records (department, agency, presidential, etc.) and personal papers of members of Congress.

Publication Plan Ph.D. candidates should state their strategy for moving beyond dissertation requirements and producing a scholarly product such as a book manuscript. Post-doctoral applicants should identify the status of their manuscript and the plan and timeline for submitting the manuscript to a press.

Curriculum Vitae: The applicant should attach a curriculum vitae of no more than two pages.

Two Letters of Reference: References should email letters as attachments to legislative.archives@nara.gov with the subject line: "Applicants name Legislative Archives Fellowship." Applicants are responsible for assuring that their supporters have sent letters by the application deadline and should confirm with the Center the receipt of these letters.

Candidates who are not familiar with the Center's holdings should visit its website (<http://www.archives.gov/legislative>) to identify specific records relevant to their topics. In developing their proposals, candidates are strongly encouraged to consult with Center staff by contacting Richard McCulley, Center Historian, at Richard.mcculley@nara.gov.