

The Visiting Foreign Judicial Fellows Program

For more information, please contact:

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FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER
Washington, D.C.

Visiting Foreign Judicial Fellows Program

The Federal Judicial Center established its Visiting Foreign Judicial Fellows Program in 1992. Under its auspices, a small number of foreign judges, public officials, and scholars are invited to conduct research at the FJC for a period of one to six months. Candidates must secure independent funding for their travel, living, and related expenses. Fellows are responsible for making their own logistical arrangements, including securing a visa, if needed.

The program provides an opportunity for participants to gain a deeper understanding of U.S. judicial practice. The FJC provides Fellows with an office, computer access, assistance with their research, and arranges meetings with U.S. judges, court officials, FJC staff, and others in the D.C. community with relevant expertise. When appropriate, Fellows are also invited to observe FJC programs. Fellows frequently write papers in an area of judicial studies of importance to their nation's system.

The first Visiting Foreign Judicial Fellow was a Justice of the Supreme Court of Western Australia in Perth, in residence at the Center for three months during the spring of 1992. He completed a study on practical techniques for securing judicial independence. His fellowship was funded by a grant under the Fulbright scholars program. Subsequent Fellows have included a judge from Laos who conducted research in the field of caseload management; a judge from Brazil who studied intellectual property litigation; an Afghan judge who developed a criminal law benchbook to be used by judges in Afghanistan; and an attorney from Kosovo who explored how U.S. courts review questions of constitutional law.

As of September 2010, the FJC has hosted 71 Judicial Fellows from 37 different countries.

ELIGIBILITY

The FJC will consider fellowship applicants from any country with which the United States maintains diplomatic relations.

REQUIREMENTS

Visiting Fellows must have:

- fluency in written and spoken English;
- some knowledge of the American legal and court systems;
- a specific research project relating to the U.S. legal system, judicial practice, or court education;
- a plan for completing the project on the Fellow's own initiative; and
- a funding source.

APPLICATION

The candidate must make a formal application to the program in writing.

Applications should include:

- proposed dates of fellowship;
- candidate's education and a description of their familiarity with the U.S. legal system;
- judicial or court-related experience;
- a current résumé;
- a description of the candidate's language proficiency and previous travel or study in the United States;
- a summary and outline of the planned research project (note: any writing produced by the Fellow during or as a result of the fellowship must be made available to the FJC for possible publication);
- the candidate's funding source, including a letter from the source.

Applications should be submitted as far in advance of the proposed fellowship dates as possible, to allow the FJC to schedule office space and make other necessary arrangements. Applications can be addressed to:

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Candidates will be notified in writing of the status of their applications.

An application form can be found on line in the International Judicial Relations section of <http://www.fjc.gov>.