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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS TO THE 2020 BERTHA JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP POSITIONS

What does 0-2 years of experience mean? This program is meant for early-career lawyers and by that we mean someone who is 0-2 years post receipt of your JD or LLM degree. In other words, the minimum requirement (0 years) is that you have completed your degree and have taken the Bar exam by the time you start the position in September 2020; we will not consider applicants who graduated from law school prior to Spring of 2018. Bertha Justice Fellow positions are limited to individuals who are 0-2 years out of law school, and does not depend on years of practice experience.

I don't have my JD yet. Can I apply? Yes, the Bertha Justice Fellow positions are open to candidates who will have a JD degree as of the start date of the fellowship in September 2020.

I am still waiting on my bar results. Can I apply? Yes, as long as you will have taken your bar exam by September 2020, you are welcome to apply. If you have failed the Bar exam you must be willing to retake it.

Do I need to be admitted to the New York Bar?

No, as long as you are admitted to another state that is fine. It is also ok if you are awaiting your Bar results.

Do I have to be a U.S. citizen to apply for a Bertha Justice Fellow position? You certainly can apply for a Bertha Fellows position as a non-US citizen. Please note that we have a very strong preference for someone with a JD or an LLM, so that they may be able to practice in the United States.

Does the Bertha Justice Fellow position at CCR require being based in New York? Yes, the program is based in New York City office and the Bertha Fellows would be required to work out of our office.

Is there flexibility on the timing, for example if I cannot start until October 2020 or I would prefer to start over the summer? There is limited flexibility on the timing of the Bertha Justice Fellows start date. Please indicate in your cover letter potential conflicts. Should you be considered for a position, this can be discussed with the search team and fair agreement can be reached.

What is the relationship between the Bertha Justice Fellows and the Bertha Justice Network? The Bertha Justice Fellows are part of the Bertha Justice Network, a vibrant network of radical social justice and movement lawyers that spans the world and is comprised of Bertha Justice Fellows and Alumnx, Bertha Justice Partners who host and train Fellows, and our other legal grantees and friends of the Foundation.

I interned at CCR, can my supervisor serve as one of my references or write my letter of recommendation? That is up to you. We have a preference for letters from folks outside CCR, but if your most significant supervision was by a CCR lawyer or Advocacy Program Manager, you should feel free to ask them.

I heard that Bertha Fellows are hired to work in a particular “docket” at CCR, do I have to specify a docket in my application? No. In prior years, CCR hired Bertha Justice Fellows to work in one of our three dockets: Government Misconduct & Racial Justice, International Human Rights, and the Guantánamo Global Justice Initiative. We no longer organize our work in this way. Instead, you should specify in your application any subject areas you are particularly interested in.