



Boston University School of Law
Program on Reproductive Justice

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
J.D. CLASS OF 2027
LESSOW REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH LAW FELLOWSHIP**

Purpose

The Boston University School of Law Lessow Reproductive Health Law Fellowship, established by alumna Kim Lessow Crockett '97 through a dedicated gift to support the BU Program on Reproductive Justice, aims to help a graduating third-year J.D. student secure a year-long placement at a nonprofit organization or government agency engaged in impactful advocacy in pursuit of reproductive rights and justice. The overarching goal of the Fellowship is to help launch careers dedicated to advancing reproductive rights and justice for women and pregnant people through legal work on issues such as abortion access, contraceptive care, maternal health equity, and related concerns in the broader field of reproductive health.

Applicant Eligibility

Third-year JD students at Boston University School of Law who intend to pursue a career in reproductive health law are eligible to apply for the Fellowship.

Applicants are encouraged to simultaneously apply to external post-graduation public interest fellowships, including the Equal Justice Works Fellowship, Justice Catalyst Fellowship, the Skadden Fellowship, and the If/When/How Post-graduate Fellowship. An applicant who receives an external fellowship offer for the same host organization as the Lessow Reproductive Health Law Fellowship must notify the BU Program on Reproductive Justice and CDO immediately to determine next steps.

Eligible Fellowship Host Organizations

- Nonprofit organizations or government agencies located within the United States or its territories.
- The host organization is responsible for malpractice insurance, legal training, and supervision.
- A Lessow Fellow must be supervised by a practicing attorney.

Selection Criteria

Selection is competitive and considers the whole applicant and the degree to which the Fellowship represents a meaningful and intentional step in their career. The Fellowship prioritizes candidates who demonstrate a clear and motivated commitment to reproductive rights and justice. The selection process also evaluates the host organization and takes into consideration the nature of legal work to be performed, the needs of the community to be served, the nature of the supervision and training provided by the host organization, and how closely connected the mission of the entity is to the applicant's overall career goals.

Please note that the BU Law Reproductive Justice and Rights Concentration is not required to be considered for this Fellowship.

Fellowship Duration and Graduate Commitment

- The Fellowship term will be from approximately September 1, 2027, to August 31, 2028.
- The Lessow Fellow is expected to work the full one-year term of the Fellowship.
- Failure to graduate in May 2027 will automatically result in the Fellowship offer being rescinded.

BU School of Law Requirements for Selected Fellows:

- The selected Fellow must be eligible to graduate, without condition, from Boston University School of Law in May 2027 and be eligible to sit for the Bar Exam in July 2027.
- The Fellow must send a thank you letter by June 1, 2027, to the donor, Kim Lessow Crockett '97, c/o Elizabeth Ryan-Catalano, Senior Major Gift Officer, Boston University School of Law, Development and Alumni Relations, 765 Commonwealth Avenue, Esdaile Alumni Center, 1104, Boston, MA 02215
- By October 1, 2028, following the completion of their Fellowship, the Fellow must submit a written narrative report to the Boston University School of Law Office of Career Development and Public Service. The written report should be at least 2,500 words and should include the nature of the work completed,

professional development benefits gained through the Fellowship, subsequent employment plans, an evaluation of the Fellowship host, and a recommendation as to the host's suitability for future placements.

Fellowship Award

- The Fellow will receive a salary of \$65,000, paid in monthly installments over the 12-month period, plus standard Boston University benefits.
- The Fellow may also receive additional funds to help alleviate the burden of expenses related to bar preparation, moving, loan repayment, and relocation.
- The Fellow will be considered a Boston University employee and will not be eligible for the Boston University Law Loan Repayment Assistance Program ("LRAP") during the year of their Fellowship. IRS rules prohibiting employer-provided loan cancellation prevent Boston University employees from participating in the LRAP Program.

Application Materials:

All applicants must submit the following materials to CareerHub by **December 1, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. EST:**

1. A cover sheet and checklist with your name, the name and location of the sponsoring organization, type of entity (e.g., nonprofit), and a completed checklist of required application materials.
2. An essay of no more than 800 words, which sets forth:
 - a. **Your commitment to reproductive rights and justice**, including how your commitment has been expressed through coursework, advocacy, clinical work, personal experience (including prior to Law School, if applicable), and other ways.
 - b. **The legal or policy work you will perform during the Fellowship**, as well as the applicable skills and experience you have to do this work, the need for the type of work you will be doing (e.g., impact on the community, individual clients, etc.), and how the Fellowship fits within your career goals.
3. A current resume.
4. Law School transcript (unofficial permitted) and copies of any other graduate school transcripts.
5. Documentation demonstrating registration (or commitment to register) for the July 2027 Bar Exam. If it is not possible to provide documentation by December 1, 2026, applicants may note they will supplement their materials with this documentation and submit it as soon as possible.
6. Two (2) sealed or unsealed letters of recommendation from Law School faculty or employers addressed to "Lessow Reproductive Health Law Fellowship." Do not include more than two (2) letters of recommendation. Confidential recommendation letters must be submitted to the CDO via email to lawcdo@bu.edu by the same deadline with the subject heading "Lessow Reproductive Health Law Fellowship Recommendation." Recommendation letters may otherwise be uploaded to CareerHub with the other application materials.
7. A commitment letter from the Fellowship host organization describing the nature of the proposed legal work for the fellow; why the host organization seeks a fellow (i.e., the manner in which the fellow's work will serve the community); why the host organization would not otherwise be financially able to support a new attorney; and the nature of the supervision and training that the host organization will provide. Fellowship host organizations are encouraged to provide as much detail as possible about the organization/agency and the work the fellow will be doing. There is no need for applicants or employers to design a new project. Fellows may work as a staff attorney as needed by the Fellowship host.

Interview

Applications will be reviewed by the Lessow Reproductive Health Law Fellowship Selection Committee following the application deadline. Applicants selected to advance will be invited to interview with the Committee. Interviews will be conducted in January-February 2027.

Application Review & Offer

All deliberations throughout the application review process are confidential. Final confirmation of the Fellowship will be made by the Dean of the Law School. The Committee will extend an offer by March 1, 2027.

Questions

Please direct any questions related to the Lessow Reproductive Health Law Fellowship to the BU Program on Reproductive Justice at buprj@bu.edu and the CDO at lawcdo@bu.edu.