

Kenyon College



Summer 2016 Student Socio-legal Conference/Seminar Attendee Recommendations Guidelines

Kenyon's Summer Legal Scholars Program provides a select group of students with opportunities to conduct original research under the mentorship of a faculty sponsor. Successful applicants come from a wide range of majors, although usually within the humanities and social sciences disciplines. As a program that promotes undergraduate research, most participants have completed a course in research methodology or otherwise have demonstrated some experience engaged in doing comprehensive research tasks. As an interdisciplinary program, Kenyon's Law & Society program expects enrollees to bring to the study of law a foundation or grounding in a "discipline," something ordinarily achieved by the completion of their sophomore year or later. Thus, historically, the vast majority of students in the Summer Legal Scholars program have been accepted for research fellowships during the summers between their junior and senior years. Research undertaken in the summer quite often serves as the basis for further work done as a part of departmental honors or senior exercises. The opportunity is not available to students after they have graduated; so, current seniors are not eligible for fellowships or to participate in the summer seminars. While there is no prescribed minimum grade point average, the selection committee has tended to look favorably upon those with records of strong academic performance as an indicator of preparedness for doing challenging research in close collaboration with their faculty mentors and attending advanced seminars.

Provosts and deans from member institutions of the Five Colleges of Ohio who might wish or require guidance in selecting students for participation in the Summer Student Socio-legal Conference and Seminar are encouraged to identify and refer students that they and the students' faculty recommenders feel have a strong interest in the study of the operation of law in society (not necessarily "prelaw" in the career or vocational sense), would be both prepared and inclined to engage the readings as well as the other participants and faculty presenters in thoughtful discussion, and for whom the seminar would be a meaningful intellectual experience. Diverse backgrounds and academic perspectives are important components of inclusive excellence and enhance the examination of the operation of law in an increasingly multicultural America. Students selected must be available for the duration of the conference and commit to attending for the entire event.

Provosts and deans or their designees should send in electronic format the letters of interest of those students whom their institutions choose to put forward for participation. Our intention is to select at least two (2) students from each college. If there are more than two students being recommended, please rank them according to preference. If additional spaces are available, we may draw from those additional students. Feel free to include any information that may assist in making final selections. Letters of Interest and Recommendations should be emailed to Ric Sheffield at sheffier@kenyon.edu by April 15, 2016. If there are questions about the recommendation or selection process, contact Prof. Ric Sheffield at (740) 427-5852 or sheffier@kenyon.edu.