No matter where I go, or who I meet the question is the same — are people still getting jobs? Yes they are; it’s just taking longer to get there. In light of this reality the College of Law created the Urban Law Fellowship Program. Keeping with its long-standing commitment to public service, the College of Law collaborated with the City of Cincinnati Solicitor’s Office and, more recently, the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati to provide legal service to the community and a three-month training program for entry level attorneys.

Urban Law Fellows either work with at The Solicitor’s Office handling a variety of legal areas including prosecution, litigation, transactional, and labor and employment, or with Legal Aid attorneys in a variety of practice group areas. Fellows experience a high level of responsibility allowing them to cultivate and enhance legal skills as well as become even more competitive for future employment opportunities in both the public and private sectors. So, it is fair to ask, is the program achieving its intended purpose. Yes, according to the host organizations as well as the graduates.

Julie Bissinger, who manages the program for The Solicitor’s Office, “is thrilled to have partnered with the Law School’s Urban Fellowship Program yearly since the program’s inception in 2010.” To date, by her account, “17 newly licensed attorneys have enhanced their careers in practice with the Solicitor’s Office, while the Solicitor’s Office simultaneously benefitted from their enthusiasm and hard work.” Under her direction “[f]ellows are partnered with a mentor attorney in a primary interest area of Litigation, Labor and Employment, Economic and Community Development, General Counsel or Prosecution.” She stated that “[u]pon completion of their fellowships, every Fellow had secured full-time permanent employment.” Further, she indicated that “The Solicitor’s Office was pleased to hire two Fellows, David Sturkey ’10 and Lauren Yanovsky ’11, where they are currently working as Assistant City Prosecutors.”

The program is less safe harbor, more a launching pad

Matthew Fong ’09, currently an attorney at Thompson Hine LLP (Cincinnati) was a member of the inaugural class of Urban Law Fellows. For him “[s]erving as an Urban Law Fellow at the City of Cincinnati was tremendously rewarding.” The Fellowship “provided [him] with valuable professional experience while also providing unique insight into the city where [he] lived and worked.” Matt, who worked with the General Counsel, Litigation Counsel, and Employment Counsel, further states that he “benefited significantly from the highly capable and experienced attorneys at the City.

The City of Cincinnati, like other municipalities, faces a variety of unique challenges every day, which also made every project as a Law Fellow new and different.”

The variety of his experiences as a Law Fellow continue to remain with him. Matt had:

- rewarding opportunities to both observe and meaningfully contribute to the Law Department, which included navigating collective-bargaining agreements, responding to Sunshine Law requests, participating in litigation, and advising members of the City government in their efforts to make Cincinnati better through supporting social services and structuring sound policies.

Immediately after his Fellowship, Matt worked for the United States Department of Labor, before assuming his current position at Thompson Hine LLP.

... subsequently hired full-time. According to Lauren she would not have received a full-time position without having the fellowship because she did not have prior experience in criminal law. According to Lauren the fellowship provided “an opportunity to explore a different area of law and build a different skill set and network.” The fellowship experience continues to...
receive high marks from Lauren, who said:

*I was assigned a mentor that taught me more in 10 weeks than I’ve learned at any other legal job. They were careful to treat me as an attorney and not a law clerk - so I was able to gain a lot of courtroom and trial experience as well as work on some appellate cases.*

**Daryl Osuch ’11** “took the Fellowship for the experience and it definitely met [his] expectations.” He worked with eight to ten attorneys at the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati and was primarily exposed to the Income Work and Health Practice Group, the Housing and Consumer Practice Group. Daryl said that “[e]veryone was really nice, and I never felt like I was getting a made-up assignment. I felt like I was helping other attorneys with real case work or real projects.” Daryl continues to volunteer at Legal Aid while also doing criminal defense work.

with practicing attorneys, but it wasn’t until [his] Urban Law Fellowship that [he] actually felt like [he] was practicing law.” David worked in the Prosecutor’s office and was “in the courtroom on day 1.” By the end of his fellowship he “had tried several cases, met dozens of judges and lawyers, and decided that [he] wanted to stay in the Prosecutor’s Office.” He said that “[a] position opened up shortly after my fellowship ended and I literally already had 2 feet in the door” and has been “there ever since.”

**David Sturkey ’10** described his as “unique because it was an opportunity to actually practice law.” David said that “[i]n law school, when you are in the classroom, you are studying and discussing the law. During summers, you have a chance to actually work