



RAPPAPORT CENTER
FOR LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY
BOSTON COLLEGE | LAW

SUMMER FELLOWSHIP IN LAW & PUBLIC POLICY



2026

About Our Team



Alexis Albert
Administrative Assistant



Dan Kanstroom
Faculty Director



Amanda Teo
Executive Director

About the Center



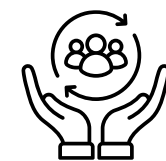
Housed at BC Law School and serves all 8 ABA-accredited law schools and the New England legal and policy community



Endowed by The Phyllis & Jerome Lyle Rappaport Foundation



Our mission: inspiring, sustaining, and improving leadership in state and local law and public policy



Our theory of change: support emerging leaders, foster collaboration and dialogue, and advance policy as a bridge between democratic ideals and reality



Our Work

Speakers Events



140+ Convenings Since 2015

Visiting Scholars



10 Visiting Professors & Senior Fellows Since 2015

Summer Fellowship



300+ Rappaport Law Fellows Since 2001

Mission of the Fellowship

promoting young people
to work on . . . problems
and to become an
extended part of a
collective effort to
achieve a public good

“

the ability for us all to
see things from the
other person's
perspective

“

when you have a brilliant
idea, don't keep it to
yourself; send it out, as
there are other people
who may be able to help
and facilitate those

“

Jerry
Rappaport





Summer Fellowship:



\$10,000 Stipend

To enable students to intern and focus on professional growth.



Immersive Legal Experience

A 10-week placement in state or local government, tackling urgent, meaningful work.



Experiential Learning

Weekly sessions with leaders and institutions driving change.



Mentorship, Networking, Team Building

A personal “board of directors for life,” comprising mentors, peers, and robust alumni network.

Internship Program

10 Weeks Interning at a State or Local Government Agency

Goals of the internship:

- to give you an opportunity to apply your legal education to a real-world set of problems
- to learn from seasoned policy makers and legal professionals
- to build connections with stakeholders
- to be “in the room” and “at the table” for meaningful conversations and work



Internship Program

Why intern at a State or Local Government Agency?

State and local government are where impactful policy-making is happening right now

MA and Boston area governments looked to as exemplars: cutting-edge, responsive, functional, and creative

Leaner teams, less bureaucracy, more efficiency = meaningful work for interns, shorter runway between ideation and implementation

Rappaport alumni network

Excellent lawyer-supervisors providing rigorous training



What Do Fellows Do?

- ✦ Briefed and argued a motion, and drafted appellate brief for judgment on the pleadings
- ✦ Analyzed impact of *Mahmoud v. Taylor* on BPS policies
- ✦ Drafted legal determinations

- ✦ Revamped policy and legislative tracker, and analyzed pending legislation
- ✦ Monitored ICE arrest data for the Governor's public response

Internship Placements

Internship placement must be:

- **at a state or municipal agency in Massachusetts (not a non-profit or federal government position),**
- **AND in a position focused on policy**

Internship Placements

***= Placement
reservations
made for a
Rappaport
Fellow**

Examples of past placements:

Municipal Government Agencies:

City of Boston Law Department

City of Somerville Law Department

Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement

Office of Legal Advisor, Boston Public Schools

Examples of placements that may qualify, if the position is focused on policy:

Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS)

Suffolk County District Attorney's Office

State Government Agencies:

Attorney General's Office *

Dept. of Public Utilities

Division of Insurance

Executive Office of Education

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Governor's Legal Counsel*

Governor's Office of Cabinet Affairs & Strategic Planning*

MA House Ways & Means

Office of Refugees and Immigrants

Examples of placements that do not qualify:

U.S. Attorney's Office

Greater Boston Legal Services

Lawyers for Civil Rights

Internship Placements

Two ways to obtain an internship: (1) Apply on your own, OR (2) be placed by the Rappaport Center*.

Applicants should be applying for summer internships independent of the process of submitting an application for a Rappaport Fellowship.

Applying independently helps you identify the opportunities that may be of interest, helps you demonstrate your interest those agencies and in policy work, and helps the agencies with their hiring process and workstream.

However, one of the unique features of the Rappaport Fellowship is the placement support.

Experiential Learning

Each week, Rappaport Fellows visit a public impact institution for intimate conversations with seasoned leaders and Rappaport Fellowship alumni or Rappaport board members.

Goals of the experiential learning program:

- **to introduce you to the major policy history, challenges, and opportunities here in MA, and especially to how different policy areas interact**
- **to bring you in proximity with the institutions, communities, and stakeholders affected by policy choices**
- **to connect you with policy makers, thought leaders, and professionals who are doing innovative and meaningful work to improve Greater Boston and MA**
- **to get the cohort together for learning, socializing, and team building**



Experiential Learning

Our programming depends on fellows' interests, and may include:

Attorney General's Office

Boston City Hall

Celtics Foundation & TD Garden

Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS)

Massachusetts State House

MBTA Control Center

Red Sox Foundation & Fenway Park

Supreme Judicial Court, Appeals Court, & Adams Courthouse

Visit our blog: <https://tinyurl.com/RappaportBlog>



Mentorship & Networking

Each Rappaport Fellow is paired with 2 dedicated mentors, carefully selected based on the Fellow's interests and experiences. Mentors, well-respected members of the legal community, are chosen from among our Advisory Board, prior Rappaport Fellows, and seasoned leaders in law and policy.



Mentorship & Networking

Short-Term Goals: During the Fellowship, we seek to connect Fellows with mentors who provide, among other things:

- **Advice about educational and professional development**
- **Socialization into professional life and the role of a lawyer**
- **Networking opportunities**
- **Alternative perspectives**
- **Emotional support, feedback, and advocacy**

Long-Term Hopes:

- **Help mentees learn how to build and sustain a professional network and assemble a personal board of advisors**
- **Support development of relationally authentic relationships that are mutually rewarding and thrive over time**
- **Create a community of public-minded leaders on whom fellows can call for support, learning, and collaboration**

Mentorship & Networking

Law fellows build meaningful connections with Rappaport Advisory Board members, Rappaport Institute's policy fellows, Rappaport alumni, and each other.



Mentorship & Networking

Rappaport alumni go on to a variety of public impact careers, including:

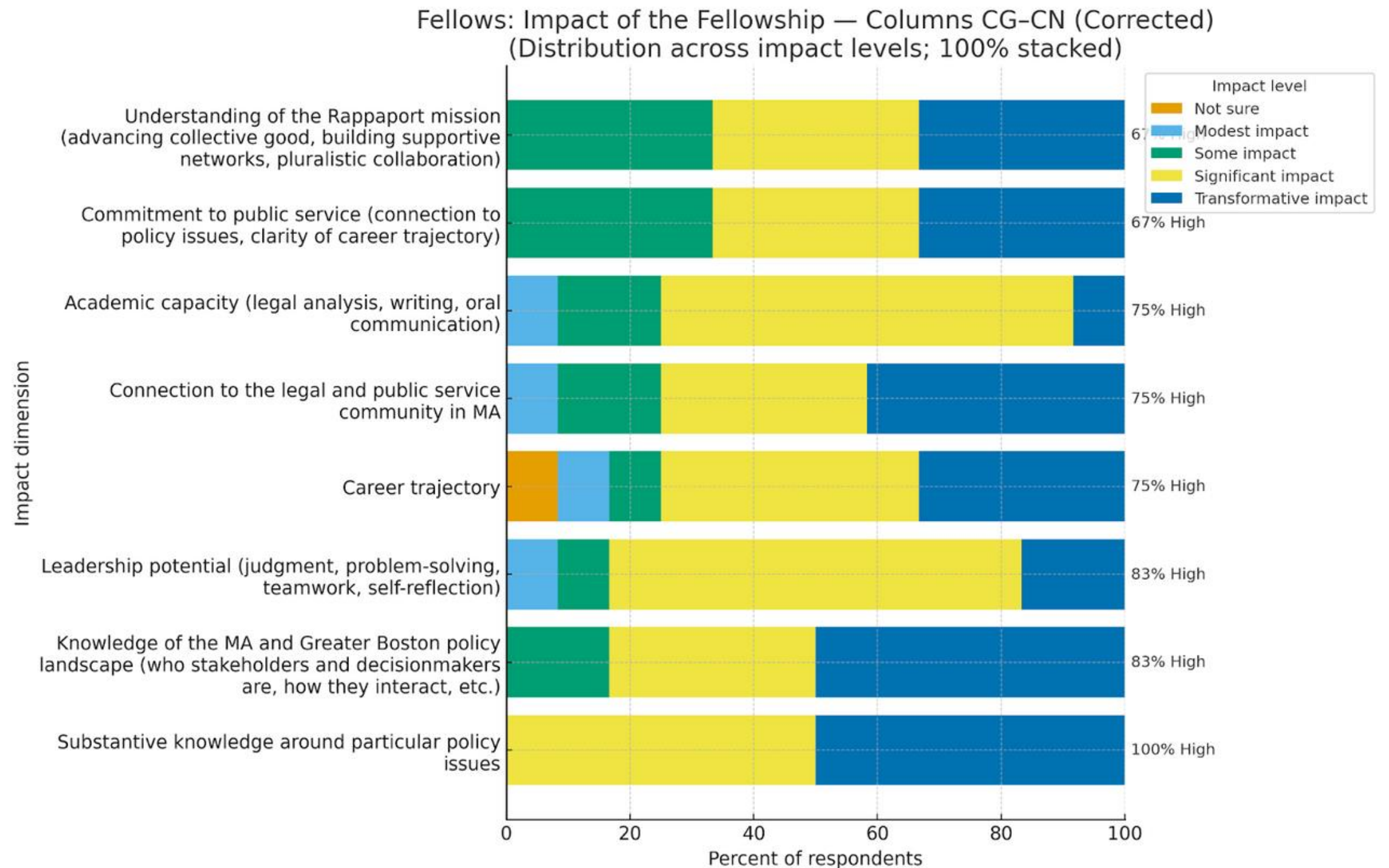
- **Michael Anderson**, Asst. Attorney General, Environmental Crimes Strike Force
- **Ân H. Lê**, Deputy Chief of Equity & Inclusion, City of Boston
- **Lee M. Peterson**, First Justice, Norfolk Probate and Family Court
- **Lavinia Weizel**, Associate, Mintz; Member, MA Victim and Witness Assistance Board
- **Michelle Wu**, Mayor, City of Boston

Rappaport Advisory Board members have served the Commonwealth in many capacities, including:

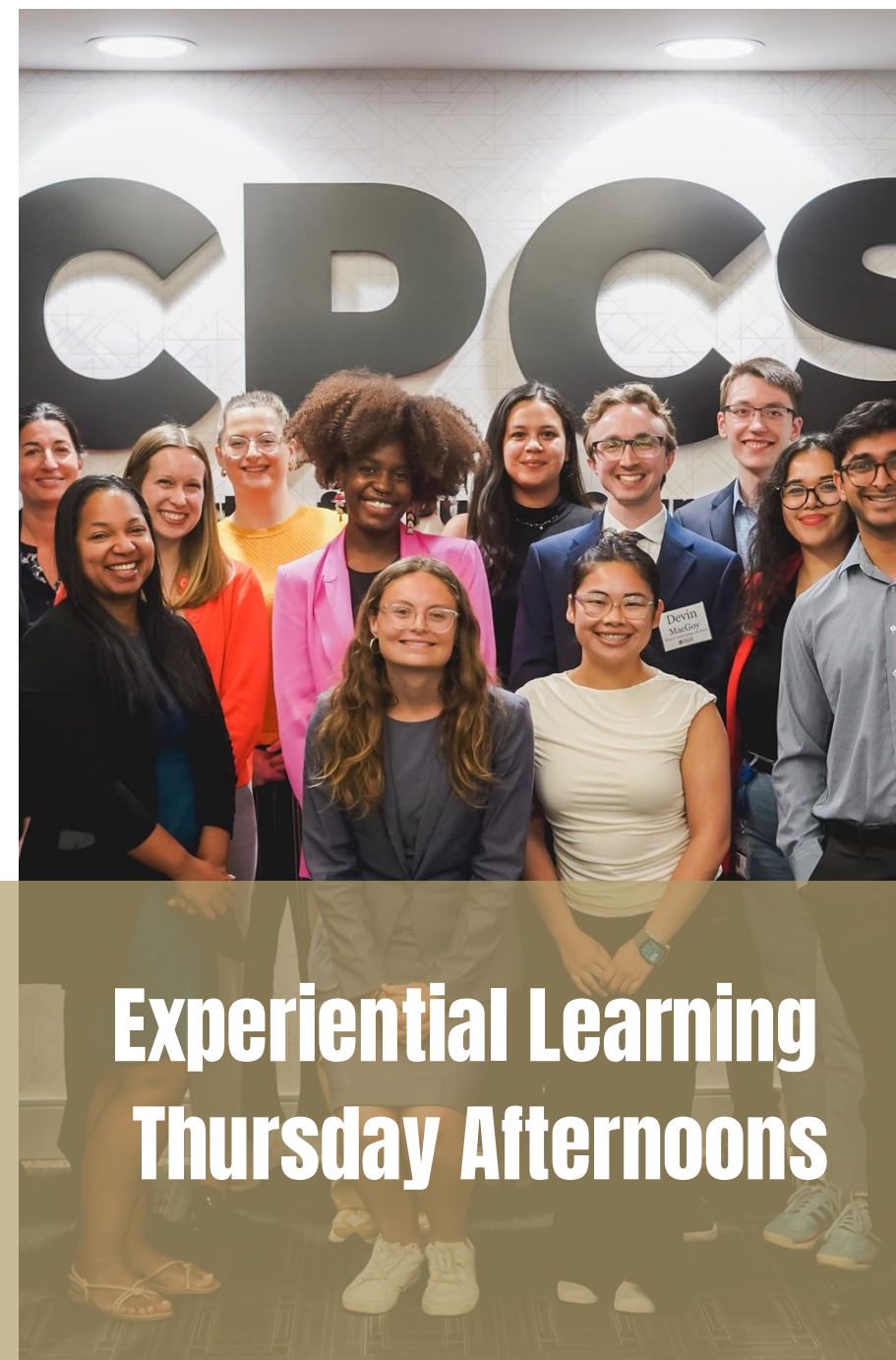
- **Kimberly Atkins Stohr**, Senior Opinion Writer and Columnist, Boston Globe
- **Anthony J. Benedetti**, Chief Counsel, Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS)
- **Pat Moore**, First Asst. Attorney General, Office of the MA Attorney General
- **Paige Scott Reed**, Fmr. Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Maura T. Healey
- **Tanisha Sullivan**, President, NAACP, New England Conference

Fellows' Reflections

“When I had first applied for the fellowship, I had no idea how much this can change the trajectory of my career. Not only is the Rappaport Center well-known in the legal sphere, there are so many connections and door this fellowship can open from the people you meet, place you go for programs, and the experiences you have at work.”



Events Calendar



Additional Requirements



- **Two short (less than a minute!) speaking opportunities during the summer: a brief introduction at the welcome reception and a reflection on their learning at the celebration dinner.**
- **A blog post during the summer.**
- **Final program evaluation and self-assessment at the end of the summer.**
- **Ambassadorship during their academic and professional careers.**

Eligibility and Selection

Any law student who is a J.D. candidate in good standing at an eligible law school and who is not in the final year of law school may apply for a Rappaport Fellowship.



Eligibility and Selection

We seek to assemble a cohort that represents diverse law schools, lived/educational/professional experiences, and policy interests.

We look for law students who have:

- **Commitment to public service**
- **Enthusiasm specifically for policy and government work, among various ways of doing good**
- **Demonstrated interest in a policy issue, derived from lived, educational, or professional experience**
- **Demonstrated leadership potential (teamwork, self-reflection, growth mindset)**
- **Understanding of how our Fellowship can help their development**
- **Capacity to add value and succeed in legal workplace (strong academic and professional record, clear and technically sound writing, keen analytical skills, initiative and curiosity)**



Application Process

Applications will be open on Monday, December 1, 2025 and will close on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 5 pm.

01



Application Package:

- **Resume (no more than 2 pages)**
- **Transcripts from law school and undergraduate**
- **Names and contact information of two recent references (professional or academic)**
- **Application, including 3 short essay questions**



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Transcripts not ready by Jan. 15? No problem! Supplement once available.

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**We value concision and your own voice.
Please respond in 250 words or fewer and
without using AI.**



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Tips!

- **Show, Don't Just Tell:** Use specific examples to demonstrate your qualities rather than simply stating them.
- **Connect to the Mission:** Show how your personal goals align with the Rappaport Center's mission and how the Fellowship can give you unique tools to help you develop.
- **Get Feedback:** Ask trusted friends, teachers, or career services personnel to review your application for clarity, impact, and authenticity.
- **Be Careful:** Your application represents your work product. It should reflect your voice, be well-written, and be free of errors. Proof-read!



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Interviews:

- **Approximately 24-30 finalists are interviewed,**
- **At the end of January through early February,**
- **With short notice (72 hours),**
- **By a 4-person panel, comprised of Rappaport staff, former Rappaport Fellows, and Rappaport Advisory Board members,**
- **Virtually and for 30 minutes per conversation.**



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Decisions:

- **Invitations usually extended in mid-February,**
- **By phone,**
- **To allow for significant lead time for Rappaport staff to match Fellows with mentors and for Fellows to finalize internship placements.**

Other Tips

Reach out to your public interest career services team!

Talk to former Rappaport Fellows.

Subscribe to the Rappaport Center newsletter or follow the Center on LinkedIn or Instagram. We will share best practices for the application process, introduce you to former Fellows and their mentors and employers, and remind you of important dates, including deadlines.

Questions? Please connect with Rappaport Center staff by emailing rappaport@bc.edu.



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For news about the Center, including the opening of the Fellowship Application, please sign up for our newsletter by using this QR code.



Or check our website at: <https://tinyurl.com/RappaportCenter>

