

PERKINS COIE 1L FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FAQs

Are you a 1L who is considering applying for summer fellowships before the new year? Here are some FAQs that may be helpful as you develop your application strategy. The Perkins Coie [1L fellowship application](#) deadline is January 16, 2024.

WHICH OFFICE SHOULD I APPLY TO?

The Perkins Coie 1L fellowship programs are designed to recruit law students who may eventually join the firm as full-time employees. To that end, you should only apply to the office in the city where you plan to live and start your practice as an entry-level lawyer. Candidates applying to the Diversity & Inclusion Fellowship may apply to one office only but may apply for multiple fellowships in that office. Candidates applying to the Patent Litigation Fellowship may apply to more than one office but must limit their Diversity & Inclusion Fellowship application, if applying, to one office.

HOW IMPORTANT ARE LAW SCHOOL GRADES?

As with any competitive process, undergraduate, graduate (if applicable), and law school grades are important evaluative factors. Other factors, including your personal statement, relevant previous professional experience, and written and oral communication skills, among others, are also taken into consideration.

MY LAW SCHOOL GRADES WILL NOT BE RELEASED BY THE APPLICATION DEADLINE. CAN I STILL APPLY?

This is a common occurrence. You can and should apply even if your first-semester grades are not yet available. Please submit all other application materials by the application deadline and follow up by providing your law school grades as soon as they become available.

WHAT KIND OF WRITING SAMPLE SHOULD I PROVIDE?

The ideal writing sample demonstrates strong legal analysis and writing ability. If you do not have a legal writing sample, please submit a writing sample that demonstrates your ability to summarize and analyze information and draw appropriate conclusions based on that analysis.

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE PERSONAL STATEMENT REQUIRED FOR THE DIVERSITY & INCLUSION FELLOWSHIP?

A strong personal statement is essential to your application. An effective statement provides us with a sense of who you are both as a candidate and as an individual. Your personal statement should be a narrative about your unique personal history and commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within your community and in the legal profession.

Your statement should provide concrete examples of DEI leadership, resilience, and perspective, highlighting the following:

- DEI leadership. DEI initiatives or programs you have established, expanded, or otherwise substantively engaged in while in school (including undergraduate), with an employer, or in your community.
- Resilience. Obstacles you have encountered and overcome and what you learned from those experiences.
- Perspective. Relevant life experiences that have shaped your personal and professional goals.

WHEN WILL I BE UPDATED ON THE STATUS OF MY CANDIDACY?

You should expect to hear from the office to which you applied regarding your candidacy status by late January 2024.