



The
Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Fellowship

at The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.



The Eric H. Holder, Jr. Fellowship is a lasting tribute to the extraordinary contributions Mr. Holder has made to equal justice throughout his career, particularly during his tenure as the 82nd Attorney General of the United States. Since his early days as an intern at LDF to his remarkable leadership on voting rights and criminal justice reform as the nation's top attorney, the careful stewardship of civil rights has always been a priority for Mr. Holder. In 2015, he received LDF's highest honor, the Thurgood Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award, and joined the LDF National Board of Directors in 2016.

The fellowship offers attorneys an opportunity to engage in civil rights litigation and advocacy with the nation's leading civil rights and racial justice organization. It also allows LDF to attract promising diverse attorneys who will honor Mr. Holder's legacy and help LDF confront today's ever-changing civil rights challenges.

The Eric H. Holder, Jr. Fellowship is made possible by a very generous grant from the MARCH Foundation. LDF is extremely grateful to the MARCH Foundation, and especially to our shared board member James Castillo, for spearheading this effort to support a new generation of civil rights attorneys.

My work at LDF during law school shaped my vision of the promise of equality under the law. And it is my hope that the Eric H. Holder, Jr. Fellowship will provide such a life-changing experience to another up and coming lawyer.

**Eric H. Holder, Jr.
LDF Board Member
& Former U.S. Attorney General**





For our very first recipient of the Eric H. Holder, Jr. Fellowship, we sought an attorney with a genuine commitment to civil rights and racial justice, and a diverse legal background that would allow them to adapt easily to our wide range of cases. Jennifer has exceeded our expectations, and I am confident that her adept legal mind and demonstrated passion for the cause of assuring equal opportunity for all Americans will allow her to hit the ground running in this era when LDF's work is so urgently needed.

Sherrilyn A. Ifill
President and Director-Counsel

Eric H. Holder, Jr. Fellowship Inaugural Recipient: Jennifer Holmes

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) has selected Jennifer A. Holmes as the inaugural Eric H. Holder, Jr. Fellow. Bringing years of legal experience in a variety of practice areas and a dedication to protecting the civil rights of communities of color, Ms. Holmes will develop and implement litigation and advocacy across LDF's core pillars of education, political participation, criminal justice, and economic justice. Her one-year fellowship began in October 2017. A native of Washington, D.C., Ms. Holmes received her J.D. from Stanford Law School, and earned a B.A. with distinction in Political Science from Yale University.



Q&A What inspired you to apply for the Eric H. Holder, Jr. Fellowship?

I have long wanted to have a legal career where I could make a social justice impact. It went from being a personal aspiration to an imperative after the 2016 presidential election. LDF in particular has such a storied history as the premier civil rights law firm in the country, so it was an obvious choice. I wanted to be here to continue that legacy of racial justice work and combat the civil rights incursions of the new Administration.

What are you most looking forward to about your work as an Eric H. Holder, Jr. Fellow?

LDF threw me right into the deep end of the pool within weeks. I traveled to Alabama to do election protection work, and I loved it. I'm eager to build on LDF's achievements in criminal justice and voting rights. Frankly, I'm excited to tackle racial justice issues from all angles.



Photo: L-R – James Castillo, LDF Board Member and MARCH Foundation Board Member; Eric H. Holder, Jr. and his wife, Dr. Sharon Malone; Kenneth Jarvis and Dennis Obregon, MARCH Foundation Board Members.

The March Foundation considers the professionalism, tenacity, and courage of Attorney General Holder to be representative of global leadership, and deserving of historical etching. We only hope that our contribution generates an avalanche of contributions to LDF, where his monumental journey began.

Kenneth D. Parks, Chairman, MARCH Foundation

The establishment of the Eric H. Holder, Jr. Fellowship was made possible through a generous leadership grant from the MARCH Foundation. LDF invites you to join the MARCH Foundation by making a tax-deductible donation to the Eric H. Holder, Jr. Fellowship at LDF.

For more information about the Eric H. Holder, Jr. Fellowship, please contact:
Development Office
212-965-2232
development@naacpldf.org



Founded in 1940, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) is the nation's first civil and human rights law organization. The LDF is entirely separate from the NAACP and has been since 1957. Our mission has always been transformative: to achieve racial justice, equality, and an inclusive society.