FAQ’s about the Baldy Fellowships in Interdisciplinary Legal Studies

Residency
Q: Does the Baldy fellowship require a full year residency?
A: Post-Doctoral Fellowships require a full academic year (i.e., approximately nine months from September through May). Mid-Career and Senior Fellowships only require one semester or possibly one quarter, although we encourage Mid-Career and Senior Fellows to stay longer if possible.

Q: Are fellowships available during the entire year, including during summer months?
A: Yes, although fellows are required to be in residence only during the academic year. For those who wish to stay during the summer, it is possible to adjust the stipend payment schedule to ensure continuing income during the summer.

Q: What is the expected starting date for the Fellows?
A: Early September in most cases, but this is negotiable for Mid-Career and Senior Fellows.

Research
Q: I see that collaborative research with SUNY Buffalo faculty may be preferred. Is it necessary to try to establish these collaborations before applying, or is this something that can be done once the fellowship has been awarded?
A: No, it is not all necessary to do so before applying. We simply want to make it clear that we would be supportive of developing collaborative research if the opportunities arise. We do not expect that this will happen in each case.

Q: Is there a preferred length or space limit for the research proposal?
A: A typical proposal is 4 to 5 pages, single-spaced.

Eligibility
Q: Are non-US citizens and residents eligible for Baldy Fellowships?
A: Yes, definitely. The Baldy Center is very interested in hosting global scholars. Immigration is not always simple, but we have structured the Fellows Program in hopes of minimizing potential difficulties. The Fellows will not be treated as employees of the Baldy Center or University, but instead as Visiting Scholars who therefore presumably will be eligible for J1 Visas in most cases. A great deal of further information on visa questions is available on the University’s website under the “Immigration and Visa” tab at http://wings.buffalo.edu/intl/services/index.html The International Student and Scholar Services staff are quite helpful and have a good record in assisting international visitors.
Eligibility
Q: Is it possible to apply for the Baldy Fellowship before having the Ph.D. dissertation submitted and defended?
A: It depends on when the Ph.D. will be obtained. All requirements for the the Ph.D. (or other doctoral level degree – e.g., the JD) must be completed prior to taking up residency, i.e., generally before September of the fellowship year.

Q: I have completed my J.D. and am currently pursuing a Ph.D. Am I eligible to apply for a Baldy Fellowship?
A: Yes, your J.D. qualifies you for post-doctoral status under Baldy Scholar criteria.

Q: Is there any way that I could get a one-semester fellowship outside of a sabbatical?
A: Yes, it is possible; however the amount of funding would be about 1/3 or less of the normal post-doc amount (i.e., $10-15,000). Our idea regarding Senior and Mid-Career Fellowships is that the visitor brings salary and we simply provide enough additional funding to cover the costs of being in Buffalo.

Q: Are there any fellowships available for people who are currently undertaking their doctoral studies?
A: Unfortunately not, unless they have already completed the JD and are pursuing the Ph.D.

Q: I applied last year but did not receive a Fellowship. Can I reapply this year?
A: Yes. Your chances of success may improve if you have improved your proposed research in some significant way.

Funding Level
Q: Regarding the Baldy Mid-Career/Senior Fellowship, would the stipend cover salary of a replacement junior lecturer plus accommodation costs.
A: Unfortunately we do not have sufficient funding to provide salary replacement. The best we can offer is a limited amount of funding ($10-15,000 US) to help defray the additional expenses of visiting Buffalo for someone who already has separate salary funding, e.g. through a sabbatical or research grant.

Future Plans
Q: Is the program expected to operate in future years as well?
A: We hope so, but funding allocations for such programs always involve uncertainty and we can offer no firm assurances.

Relocation Assistance
Q: Will the Baldy Center provide relocation expenses?
A: The Baldy Center will provide limited reimbursement of relocation expenses up to a limit of $1000.