



The Omar Al-Farooq Legal Fellowship Program

The Omar Al-Farooq Legal Fellowship Program was created to benefit law students who are interested in the protection of religious freedom and diversity in Oklahoma. This position is ideal for those who wish to gain experience in the non-profit field and who are interested in working with civil rights and human rights issues. The fellowship is open to law students or graduates from accredited law schools in the State of Oklahoma who are prepared to work in Oklahoma City for the duration of the fellowship term. The fellowship provides a stipend for up to two students who will work under the supervision of the CAIR Oklahoma Civil Rights Director for a term, to be agreed upon by the Fellowship Patron, Civil Rights Director, and applicant.

The Omar Al-Farooq Legal Fellowship Program was named in honor of Omar Ibn Khattab, the second Caliph of the Muslims (second ruler of the Muslim world in succession after the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him (“ﷺ”). Before passing away, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ gave Omar Ibn Khattab the title of “Al-Farooq,” which means “the one that can tell right from wrong.” He was praised by the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ for his uncompromising commitment to always doing the right thing even if it meant that he had to make great personal sacrifices. Omar Al-Farooq’s honesty and integrity even in the face of great personal sacrifice is an exemplar of Islamic ethical values and also an exemplar of the ethical values that a member of the legal profession should strive for. The ideal candidate for this fellowship is someone who exemplifies the spirit of Omar Al-Farooq and makes a lifelong commitment to always standing up for justice and doing the right thing no matter what the personal consequences are.

Fellowship Details:

- Fellowships will begin no later than May 10, 2019, and run until a date approved by the Civil Rights Director.
- The Fellowship will include a stipend of an amount up to \$1500, to be issued at the beginning of the Fellow beginning work at CAIR Oklahoma.
- Review will be conducted by monthly reports made by the Fellow to the Civil Rights Director and to the Fellowship Patron, as well as a review of the Fellow’s end-of-term project.
- The Fellowship Patron will have an active role in reviewing applications, including full access to resumes, cover letters, writing samples, interviews, and the application essay.

Fellowship Responsibilities:

- Client management from intake to resolution. Fellows will often be primary points of contact for clients as we assist in resolution of their complaint.
- Legal Research and Writing. Fellows will be expected to develop proficiency in both formal legal and non-legal writing styles and in putting together concise reports.
- Special research and project management. While the primary focus of the legal fellowship will be on legal work, the fellows will also be needed to help develop educational and promotional material and to assist in marketing the work of the civil rights department. We will ensure that the majority of the work assigned will be related to the practice of law.



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- Term project. Each fellow will be asked to select a project to be completed by the end of their term under the supervision of the Civil Rights Director and with the approval of the Fellowship Patron. Acceptable projects include research papers, program development, or event planning.

Applicants:

- Law students or recent graduates of accredited law schools in Oklahoma.
- Strong research and writing skills, both formal legal and non-legal.
- Excellent interpersonal work and phone skills.
- Confident and professional demeanor, punctuality, and reliability.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision on self-directed projects.
- Discretion in handling sensitive client or CAIR documents (all fellows must sign CAIR Non-Disclosure Agreement before beginning work).
- Students who have taken Constitutional Law, Federal Courts, First Amendment, Criminal Law/Procedure, and/or Human Rights Law will be preferred.
- While it is not a requirement, students with high levels of cultural competency will be preferred.
- Applicants must be prepared to devote a minimum of 20 hours a week to direct in-office work, as well as occasional weekends and evening projects. Split summers may be accommodated under special circumstances.
- *Note: while internship offers include a background check, derogatory background history is not necessarily a barrier to an internship with CAIR-OK.*

To Apply:

Submit the following documents to the Civil Rights Director no later than March 15, 2019:

- Resume
- Cover Letter
- Writing Sample of no longer than 3-5 pages (does not have to be legal writing)
- **Essay/personal statement – select one of the following four prompts and respond in as many or as few words as you think is necessary.**

1. *Throughout his tenure as Caliph, Omar Al-Farooq took the wellbeing of his subjects very seriously, feeling personally responsible for any injustice that occurred. While venturing out into his Emirate in disguise, he encountered a starving family. When asked why the children were crying from hunger, the mother said that they were too poor to buy food and were unaware of public assistance options that were available under his rein. Although he was very old, was becoming weak, and could easily ask someone to bring the family food on his behalf, he knew that their starvation was his responsibility and immediately ran to the public stores, carried more than 100 pounds of food to the family on his back, cooked and fed each member of that family personally, and then put that family on a public stipend.*

25% of Oklahoman children are food insecure, meaning that they go to bed hungry or without knowing where their next meal will come from. 17.2% of all Oklahomans are in the same situation. Chances are, you know someone that is struggling with food insecurity, whether you are aware of their situation or not. Like the woman in the story, many people are unaware of or unable to access food assistance options, and it is up to us to take responsibility and make access

CAIR–Oklahoma is a chapter of America's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.



to food easier for all of our human family. Omar Al-Farooq knew that access to food is a basic human right and that it was the responsibility of a civilized society to take care of anyone in need, whether they asked for help or not. In the spirit of Omar Al-Farooq, please tell us how you have taken responsibility for your human family by advocating for others who are less fortunate than you.

- 2. Omar Al-Farooq became the ruler of Jerusalem after it had been ruled by the Byzantines for years. Under the Byzantines, religious freedom was heavily restricted, as synagogues had been converted into churches and all people were judged under the laws of the Byzantine church. When Omar Al-Farooq took power, he instituted an era of religious freedom and tolerance through a legal system that allowed each religious group to govern themselves with their own legal systems and made sure each different religious group was allowed to worship freely without interference. His example was pervasive in Islamic history, as subsequent rulers have designated Muslim families to be caretakers for Christian holy sites, ensuring that no one would ever bring harm to their important religious locations.*

In the spirit of Omar Al-Farooq, tell us how you have advocated for the preservation of religious freedom in this State and in this Nation.

- 3. Most kings ride in style, with fancy clothing and fancy transportation. However, Omar Al-Farooq was different. He traveled to Jerusalem after he became its ruler with simple clothing, one camel, and one servant/companion. He made an agreement with his servant/companion that they would share the camel equitably and trade, in regular intervals, who got to ride and who walked and led the camel. On their final approach to Jerusalem, it was the servant's turn to ride the camel. The servant insisted that Omar Al-Farooq take his turn and ride into the city on the camel to show dignity and strength as the new ruler of Jerusalem. However, Omar refused to take the servant's turn regardless of what the people of Jerusalem would think of him and led the servant into the town walking in simple clothing. Omar Al-Farooq did not care what any person thought of him; he only cared that he followed through with his word.*

Please tell us about a time when following through with your word was difficult and you could have easily gotten out of a promise or responsibility without consequence, but that you followed through with your word anyway. Please tell us why you chose to follow through. Please remove any specific personal details that you do not want to share, and speak as generally as you feel appropriate.

- 4. CAIR Oklahoma's mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding. Please tell us about your commitment and connection to our mission, particularly with regards to your past experiences or your plans for your future as a legal practitioner.*