



## Connections

The High School Fellowship Programs offers a unique opportunity for high school students to form valuable connections with different legal professionals in Delaware that will be beneficial to their future.

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*"It helped me decide my future career and college major."*  
*–Dha'zhea Freeman, 2017 High School Fellow*

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## Details and Events

Throughout the summer, the Fellows work alongside judges in the District Court as well as other federal attorneys, helping them complete administrative tasks in their respective offices and chambers. In addition to that, participants also observe a number of court events in both civil and criminal cases. In the past, they have received presentations from the District Court Judges, a Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court, the United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, the Federal Public Defender for the District of Delaware, the Clerk of the District Court, the Chief United States Probation Officer, members of the District of Delaware's chapter of the Federal Bar Association, a Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court, a Vice Chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery, a Judge of the Delaware Superior Court, and a Judge of the Delaware Family Court. They have also received a detailed presentation on how cases work their way through the court. Additionally, the Fellows have toured the Howard R. Young Correctional Institution and the offices of a large Delaware law firm.

### Contact Us

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**U.S. DISTRICT  
COURT FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

**HIGH SCHOOL  
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**



*Courtroom in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware*

## Brief Overview

The District Court's High School Fellowship Program is a multi-week summer program. High school students selected to participate in the program work in chambers with Judges of the District Court and/or with other federal employees who work with the Court. These Fellows also have the opportunity to observe District Court proceedings and meet leaders in the Delaware legal system. The Fellows are paid a monetary stipend for the program. Throughout the Fellows' time in the program, they will gain first-hand experience working in a court system and a better understanding of the legal system as a whole.



*Judge Christopher J. Burke with the 2025 High School Fellows and court staff*

## Eligibility

- Those eligible for the program are rising juniors and seniors who attend high school in New Castle County, Delaware, and who are either U.S. Citizens or Green Card holders. All those interested must submit an application, along with their high school transcript, and a letter of recommendation from either a teacher or counselor at their school.
- Finalists interview with a panel of court personnel and/or other Delaware legal professionals. Fellows selected typically have strong leadership skills, have performed well academically and have demonstrated a commitment to community service. Students with an interest in a future legal career may particularly benefit from the Fellowship, but having such an interest is not a prerequisite to application.

## Community Service

The High School Fellowship Program was first offered in 2016 as a service to the community. All participating judges and staff freely offer their time to help educate young students in the area.

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*"This program is such a great experience, getting to know important judges, lawyers, and people of power locally in Delaware. Great connections and mentors were constantly available to us, and I enjoyed the entire summer." – Tiffany Gray, 2017 High School Fellow*

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## Graduation

The Program ends with a graduation attended by the Fellows and members of the District Court family. At the graduation, the High School Fellows are presented with certificates in recognition of their completion of the program.

