American Bar Association Section of Real Property, Trust & Estate Law

The ABA Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Fellows Program encourages the active involvement and participation of young lawyers in Section activities. The goal of the program is to give young lawyers an opportunity to become involved in the substantive work of the RPTE Section, while developing into future leaders.

If appointed as an RPTE Fellow, you will:

1. Work with a designated Committee Chair, who will serve as a mentor and teach you how to successfully participate in committee leadership

2. Get involved in a substantive project, which could include writing for an RPTE publication or speaking at a Section CLE event

3. Become a Section liaison to the ABA Young Lawyers Division or your local bar association

4. Become an active member of the Membership Committee

5. Participate in important Section leadership meetings

The Fellowship appointment is for two years. To be considered for selection, a person must (1) have practiced in the trusts and estates or real property area for at least one year, (2) be younger than 36 years of age or have been admitted to the bar less than 10 years, and (3) have demonstrated leadership at the state or local bar level or in the ABA Young Lawyers Division. Applicants need not be ABA or RPTE members, yet we require accepted Fellows to become dues paying members of both the ABA and RPTE. All Fellows will receive reimbursement of up to $2,750 annually to attend Section meetings.

The Section promotes full and equal participation in our membership, the association, our profession, and the justice system by all persons. As such, we are committed to ensuring that no fewer than half of the Fellows chosen each year are diverse.
RESPONSIBILITIES OF FELLOWS

The RPTE Section expects all Fellows to:

1. Become an active member of the RPTE Membership Committee. Participate in all committee teleconferences; attend in-person committee meetings; participate in social networking efforts.

2. Become an active member of a substantive RPTE committee in an area of interest to you. Participate in all teleconferences; help with website updating.

3. Become actively involved in at least one substantive project of an RPTE Committee, and/or produce a significant written work for an RPTE periodical.

4. Attend the Section Spring and Fall Leadership meetings, as well as any stand-alone meetings of the substantive Committee to which you are appointed. You will be reimbursed for up to $2,750 annually (September 1-August 31) for attendance at Section meetings.

5. Remain involved in the activities of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) and identify substantive areas of common interest where members of the YLD can participate in the work of the Section. If you are not already active in YLD, you are not required to become active. However, you should be active at the local or state level or through some other activity that will generate contacts to fulfill your recruiting goal.

6. Work with the Section’s YLD Liaisons in recruiting them to join the Section, with a specific goal for you to recruit no fewer than three persons in each Fellowship year to participate in the work of the Section.

7. Report annually to the Section Council and the YLD Executive Council on your individual activities within the Section.

8. Make a current commitment to continue your active involvement at the committee level in the Section after your Fellowship is completed.

9. Act as a mentor to RPTE Fellows after you, and other young lawyers recruited into the Section.

Work Plan: You would be expected to submit a work plan on how you will achieve these goals. You must send a rough draft to your committee chair and mentor by Thanksgiving, with the final plan due to the Fellows Chair by December 6, 2019. These deadlines apply to first-year Fellows for their initial work plans and second-year Fellows to update their work plans. Failure to adhere to these deadlines, and item 3 of above, may result in termination from the program.

Appointments: Occasionally, Fellows will be appointed to a Section Standing Committee or an editorial position, both of which are reimbursed positions under the standard Section reimbursement policy. If such an appointment is made, the Fellow will choose whether to be reimbursed under the standard reimbursement policy or the Fellows reimbursement policy. The standard policy reimburses standing committee members/editors for air travel, ground transportation, and a $100 per diem for the Fall Leadership and Spring Leadership Meetings. If a Fellow is appointed to a standing committee after the beginning of the bar year, after a reimbursement has been made under the Fellows reimbursement policy, and the Fellow chooses to be reimbursed under the standard policy, adjustments will be made to future requests for reimbursement so that the total yearly reimbursement is in compliance with, and the greater of, one or the other policy.

Feedback: As a Fellow, you should communicate with your mentors and committee chairs to discuss your plans and request feedback on your progress; the Fellows Chair is also available to answer questions. The Fellows Chair will provide feedback from the Fellows subcommittee’s review of work plans. At the end your two-year term, you and your mentors will have the opportunity to make suggestions regarding your future involvement in Section activity.
Name: ___________________________________________________________

Firm/Company: ____________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: ____________________________________________________

Email: ___________________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________________________________________

ABA Member? ___ Yes      ___ No  If yes, please list ABA ID: ________________

RPTE Member? ___ Yes     ___ No

I practice trust and estates ____       I practice real property ____       I practice in both areas _____

The Section promotes full and equal participation in our membership, the association, our profession, and the justice system by all persons. As such, we are committed to ensuring that no fewer than half of the Fellows chosen each year are diverse.

Optional Questions:

Race and/or Ethnicity:______________________________________

Gender: ____________________

Sexual Orientation:  ________________________

Do you have a disability? ___ Y es     ___ No

To be eligible for consideration, applications must be received by email to Monica Larys at monica.larys@americanbar.org, in a PDF or Word format. Please be sure to include this applicant information page, your responses to the questions on the following page, and a copy of your current resume.

Applications are due June 14, 2019.

Fellows will be notified of their appointment by mid August 2019. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact RPTE Fellows Chair Robert Nemzin at nemzin@butzel.com or (248) 258-2909.
APPLICATION QUESTIONS

To assist in the selection process, we ask that you provide a current resume, which details your work history, bar work and other activities. We also request that you answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper and provide any essential supporting documentation:

1. Briefly state why you are interested in being appointed as a Fellow to the Section.

2. Describe the nature of your law practice or professional position, with particular attention to the substantive areas of law in which you are currently involved.

3. Describe your activities within the ABA Young Lawyers Division, in another Section of the ABA, in your local or state bar organization, or (optional) in a racial or ethnic bar organization. Please include all programs and activities for which you have primary or significant responsibility. Highlight not only participation in substantive programs but also those that would provide opportunities for you to recruit members for the RPTE Section.

4. Identify any activities or programs that you would recommend to increase (i) positive interaction between the ABA’s Young Lawyers Division and the Section and (ii) active young lawyer membership in the Section (outside of a YLD context).

5. Describe any support that you receive from your employer or other organization(s) that will help to allow your full participation in this program.

6. Please identify no more than three RPTE substantive committees the work of which is related to your current practice of law or professional position. (All substantive committees are listed on the Section website: www.ambar.org/RPTEcommittees). Describe at least two projects you propose to undertake during your Fellowship tenure as a committee member and/or as an author. Such a project might include writing for a Section publication, or presenting a CLE program.

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Please note: Fellows will be required to attend the Spring and Fall Leadership meetings of the Section. The dates for those meetings are as follows: Fall Leadership Meeting: November 14-16, 2019 in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Spring Symposia Meeting: May 13-16, 2020, New Orleans, LA.