DALLAS BAR FOUNDATION

2101 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75201
214.220.7487

The Hon. Harlin DeWayne "Cooter" Hale Summer Fellowship

Please Print or Type:

Name: _____

Current Address: _____City/State/Zip:_____

Cell Phone: _____

Permanent Address: _____City/State/Zip:_____

E-mail address_____

Law School GPA: _____ Law School: _____

Are you a U.S. citizen? _____

In what city do you plan to practice after graduation? _____

To be considered for this fellowship, applicants who meet the selection criteria should send an e-mail to the Dallas Bar Foundation at ctello@dallasbar.org with the subject line: Application for Hon. Harlin Hale Fellowship and enclose the following documents in a single pdf file in the order listed below:

(1) a completed application form
(2) a letter of interest describing the applicant's interest in the fellowship opportunity
(3) the applicant's resume
(4) a copy of the applicant's current law school transcript, and
(5) a writing sample.

The deadline to receive the application is Friday, November 13, 2026 at 5p.m.

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Overview of the Judge Harling Hale Fellowship

In 2022, the Dallas Bar Association Bankruptcy & Commercial Law Section announced the establishment of the ***The Hon. Harlin DeWayne "Cooter" Hale (Ret.) Summer Fellowship*** on the occasion of Judge Hale's retirement in June 2022. The fellowship honors Judge Hale's immense contributions to the Bankruptcy Bar, and particularly to law students, externs, interns, clerks, and young lawyers, over the course of his career. This six-week Fellowship was established by the Bankruptcy & Commercial Law Section and funded with generous donations from the greater Bankruptcy Bar.

Judge Hale began his storied career as a Law Clerk for the Honorable James L. Dennis of the Louisiana Supreme Court, after which he moved to Dallas during the oil and gas boom (and later bust) to work for Strasburger & Price, LLP. He then co-founded a firm that later became McGuire, Craddock, Strother & Hale, P.C. and was an International Partner at Baker & McKenzie, LLP prior to his appointment to the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas in 2002.

A champion for young lawyers, Judge Hale is a Founding Member of the John C. Ford American Inn of Court and has been instrumental in the creation and success of several programs designed to promote growth and mentorship within the Bankruptcy Bar, including the Inn's *Breakfast with the Judge*, *Future Leaders*, and *William J. Rochelle, Jr. Advanced Chapter 11 Course* programs, the State Bar of Texas Bankruptcy Section's *Starting Out Right* program, and numerous other programs sponsored by local and national bar associations. Judge Hale has formally mentored more than 150 student externs in his time on the bench, in addition to countless law students, clerks, attorneys, and judges throughout his legal career. He also teaches the Creditors' Rights course as a Visiting Professor at the SMU Dedman School of Law, enthusiastically introducing a new crop of law students to bankruptcy practice each year.

Inside and outside of the courtroom, Judge Hale is a steadfast proponent of "paying it forward" and has dedicated countless hours to bankruptcy bench-bar and educational programs, focusing not only on the law, but also on character, integrity, civility, fairness, and empathy through programming and by example.

The fellowship is awarded annually to one student who will have completed their first or second year of law school and consists of a six-week summer internship with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division, rotating among the Judges, and a $6,000.00 stipend.

The fellowship will be available to Texas and Louisiana law school students.

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(1) a completed application form
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(5) a writing sample.

The criteria for the successful candidate should include:

- **attend law school in Texas or Louisiana;**
- **an interest in practicing law in Dallas;**
- **a sense of ethics and high moral character;**
- **intelligence, honesty and a willingness to work hard;**
- **a pleasant personality and ability to work independently or as part of a team; and**
- **an interest in commercial or bankruptcy law.**