



**Host Site:** Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky (AppalReD)

**Topic of Project:** Benefits and General Legal Assistance

**Location:** Prestonburg, KY

**Description of Fellow Project:**

Over six years since it began, AppalReD Legal Aid continues to confront the humanitarian crisis involving the former clients of private attorney Eric C. Conn who are facing reviews and the possible loss of their Social Security Disability and/or SSI benefits. Since May 2015, AppalReD Legal Aid attorneys and volunteer attorneys from around the country have worked tirelessly to try to protect the benefits of those affected. This Fellowship will primarily involve directly assisting those impacted by the crisis.

The Fellow will assist AppalReD Legal Aid attorneys in handling these cases at the administrative court (ALJ) and appeal levels. The work will involve interviewing clients, reviewing and summarizing medical records, performing legal research, drafting memoranda, assisting with briefs, and completing other tasks. If feasible, the Fellow will represent one or more of the claimants at ALJ hearings under the supervision of an AppalReD Legal Aid attorney.

The Fellow will also assist AppalReD Legal Aid's Prestonsburg office and AppalReD Legal Aid's advocacy director with general practice including client interviewing and intake, legal research, drafting, outreach, and other tasks.

**Applicant Qualifications:**

The project will be in-person if public health conditions allow.

