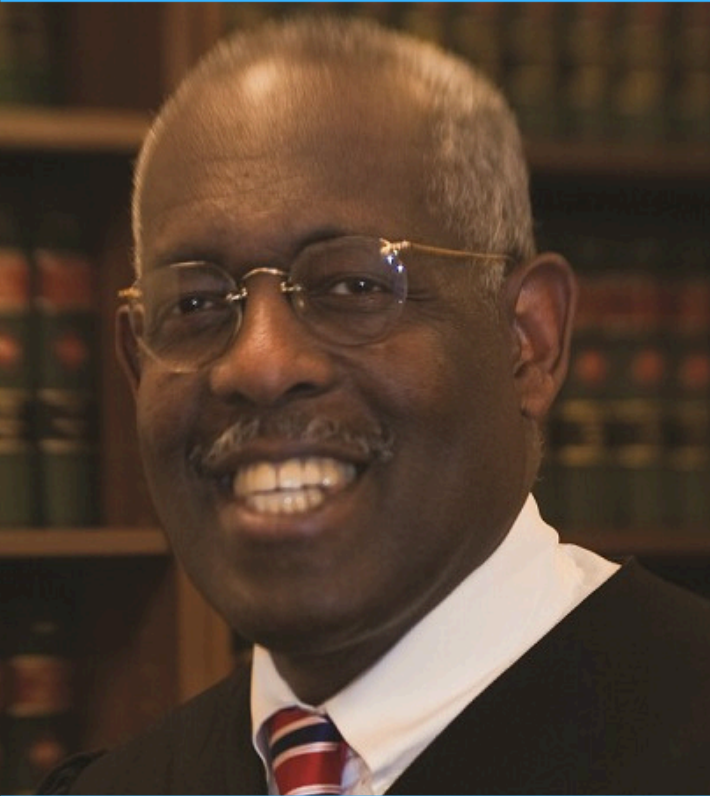


Langston C. McKinney Social Justice Fellowship

Empowering the Next Generation of Justice Leaders



Langston C. McKinney 1944-2024

What we mean by Social Justice

This position focuses on ensuring justice for people and communities who are systematically disadvantaged due to economic hardship.

It encompasses a wide range of legal issues that impact the daily lives and fundamental rights of low-income individuals, including access to housing, healthcare, employment, voting, and equal protection under the law.

Attorneys in this field use litigation, policy advocacy, and community engagement to challenge unjust systems and promote equity.

PROGRAM

*2 year fellowship for recent law graduates
as a staff attorney at Legal Services of CNY*

Your practice areas:

-  **Civil Rights**
-  **Immigration Law**
-  **Housing and Tenants' Rights**
-  **Prisoners' Rights**
-  **Voting Rights**
-  **Employment Discrimination**
-  **Criminal Justice**
-  **Healthcare Rights**

This full-time, salaried position (\$80,000) is designed to prepare emerging attorneys to become practice-ready public interest advocates through immersive legal training, mentorship, and leadership development.

HONORING JUDGE LANGSTON C. McKINNEY



The Langston C. McKinney Social Justice Fellowship proudly honors the legacy of Judge Langston McKinney, a trailblazer whose life and career were rooted in justice, community, and service.

Born in Miami, Florida in 1944, Langston McKinney graduated from Howard University in 1965 with a degree in Chemistry. Recruited by Carrier Corporation, he relocated to Syracuse, NY, becoming the first Black scientist in their research and development division. After serving two years in the U.S. Army, he returned to Syracuse in 1968 to attend Syracuse University College of Law.

While in law school, Langston McKinney co-founded the Syracuse chapter of the Law Students Civil Rights Research Council (LSCRRRC) and spent the summer as a LSCRRRC intern in the South working on civil rights legal matters—an experience that fueled his lifelong passion for justice. He also began working at Onondaga Neighborhood Legal Services (ONLS), where he first witnessed the deep legal needs of people trapped in poverty. After several organizational expansions, ONLS would one day become what we are today – Legal Services of Central New York. This work sharpened his focus on justice, equality, and the power of law to transform lives.

After graduating law school, he began his legal career as a staff attorney at ONLS. He received the prestigious Reginald Heber Smith fellowship “Reggie”, and worked as a Reggie Fellow for two years. At ONLS he became a champion for tenants’ rights. He was later honored with the naming of McKinney Manor, a local housing complex. He went on to work at the Hiscock Legal Aid Society, building a strong reputation as a criminal defense attorney. Eventually, he co-founded Maye, McKinney & Melchor, the first Black law firm in Syracuse.

In 1986, Judge McKinney broke barriers when he was appointed by Mayor Tom Young as the first Black Syracuse City Court Judge. He was elected in 1987 and re-elected in 1997 and 2007. One of his most proud achievements was partnering with the Center for Community Alternatives to help establish the Syracuse Community Treatment Court, a restorative justice initiative addressing substance use disorders.

Though he retired in 2010, Judge McKinney remained deeply engaged in justice work. He helped found the William Herbert Johnson Bar Association, Onondaga County’s first African American bar association.

Judge McKinney’s enduring legacy continues to inspire. This fellowship seeks to carry forward his commitment to justice, equity, and mentorship for the next generation of Social Justice attorneys.

How to Apply

Send Application to:
Director of Human Resources
Legal Services of Central New York
221 South Warren St. Suite 300
Syracuse NY, 13202

WEBSITE : www.lscny.org
EMAIL: hiring@lscny.org

Please Include: Resume and a brief
essay about your commitment to
Social Justice

Applications are accepted
on a rolling basis.

Interviews will be in Spring 2027

Step into your purpose. Make an impact.
Apply for the Langston C. McKinney Social Justice Fellowship today.