

Arlen Specter Center –Research Fellowship Award Announcement

Overview

In 2020, the Arlen Specter Center will offer a third round of [competitive research fellowships](#) to aid scholars in study and research of an area supported by the Arlen Specter Senatorial Papers, such as:

- Supreme court nominee confirmations
- Federal healthcare law
- LGBTQ rights- See materials from Specter’s time as Philadelphia’s District Attorney
- Middle East diplomacy
- Cuban-American relations
- Scientific/medical research funding- including stem-cell research
- Criminal justice/hate crimes
- Clinton impeachment
- Philadelphia regional developments and initiatives (Constitution Center opening; Naval Base closure)

Fellows are encouraged to use the [Arlen Specter Senatorial Papers at the University of Pittsburgh](#), managed in collaboration with Thomas Jefferson University (East Falls Campus), which contains Specter’s extensive papers, audiovisuals, photographs and memorabilia documenting his 30-year Senatorial career. Research must result in a publication that furthers knowledge and understanding of a legislative, historical, or policy issue. At least a portion of the research and publication should originate from or make use of the Arlen Specter Senatorial Papers. Physical access to the Senatorial Papers will be limited in the upcoming semester due to the pandemic and potential travel restrictions. However, thousands of pages of the Senator’s speeches and news releases are available online. To better facilitate access to the papers for successful fellowship recipients, the University of Pittsburgh Library System’s Archives and Special Collections will accommodate reproduction requests (scanning) of collection materials up to 100 pages of documents. Consultation with the Archives and Special Collections personnel will be required to fulfill reproduction requests.

Eligible Applicants

The intent of the award is to increase awareness of the late Senator’s work and legacy. Fellowship recipients need to be either graduate students currently enrolled in an academic program or a post-graduate scholars who will conduct research on a topic consistent with the legacy of the late Senator. Scholars or graduate students studying history, political science, or related fields are encouraged to apply.

Recipients must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Each Fellow will receive a \$5,000* taxable award to cover all travel and research expenses.

Jefferson University faculty and/or graduate students are eligible to apply, if their research is directly tied to the fellowship priority areas. Course releases do not accompany this fellowship.

To be considered, applicants must have a research plan that makes some use of the extensive Arlen Specter Senatorial Papers. The final deliverable must be a scholarly publication such as a white paper, article, book chapter, book, doctoral dissertation, or master’s thesis based on this research plan.

Application Materials

Applicants must submit the following:

- Unabridged CV or resume

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- Research plan (3-pages maximum) including a statement of importance to the discipline, the intended audience and expected outcome, including proposed timing for the research plan, and anticipated publication format: Master’s thesis, PhD dissertation, journal article, book/book chapter, or white paper.
- One letter of reference from someone familiar with the applicant’s research plan.
- Statement of importance of the Arlen Specter Senatorial Papers to the research project
 - Feel free to consult with University of Pittsburgh Library Systems’ Archives and Special Collections personnel for details on the content of the archive:
Email: <https://library.pitt.edu/ask-archivist> (online form)
- Budget and Budget Narrative describing the research expenses that the fellowship will support.

Submit your complete application as a single pdf to: spectercenter@jefferson.edu by **February 1, 2021**. We will notify awardees by **mid to late March, 2021**.

Fellowship requirements:

In return for accepting the fellowship, the fellow will produce the following deliverables:

- Completed publication, as described in the application.
 - At minimum, a publication-ready draft must be submitted to the Specter Center Coordinator by **June 30, 2022**.
 - Recipients must appropriately credit the Specter Research Fellowship in the preface and cite the archive, as appropriate, in all work produced with this funding.
- On-campus presentation at a Specter Center event for faculty, staff and students about the research activity- **by the end of the fall 2021 semester**.
- A copy of the publication for the University’s archives.

Arlen Specter websites:

- **Arlen Specter Senatorial Papers site with searchable archival finding aids and digitized papers:**
<http://arlenspecter.library.pitt.edu/>
- **Biographical sites:**
 - <https://eastfalls.jefferson.edu/spectercenter/about-arlen-specter.html>
 - <https://www.arlenspecter.info/>
 - <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Arlen-Specter>

Relevant books:

Life among the cannibals: a political career, a Tea Party uprising, and the end of governing as we know it - by Specter, Arlen; Robbins, Charles 2012

Passion for truth: from finding JFK’s single bullet to questioning Anita Hill to impeaching Clinton - by Specter, Arlen; Robbins, Charles, 2000

Arlen Specter: An Oral History – by Lockman, Brian; Francine Schertzer, 2017
<https://pcntv.com/product/arlen-specter-an-oral-history/>

For further information, contact:

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*Half of the award paid at the start of research with the remainder awarded upon completion of the fellowship requirements.