The Soros Justice Fellowships seek applicants for its Advocacy Fellowships. Applications are due on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 (11:59 p.m. EST) and must be submitted online at http://sorosjusticefellowships.submittable.com/submit (the online system will begin accepting applications on August 11, 2015). This document contains the full eligibility guidelines (Part I, pages 2 – 11) and complete application information (Part II, pages 12 – 16).

General

The Soros Justice Fellowships are part of the Justice Fund, which is itself housed within the Open Society Foundations’ U.S. Programs. The Justice Fund seeks to promote open society values by reducing the destructive impact of current criminal justice policies on the lives of individuals, families, and communities in the United States. Through grants to a diverse array of organizations working nationally and in key states, a range of fund-led activities, as well as the strategic use of fellowships, the Justice Fund supports a maturing criminal justice reform field across a wide spectrum of issues.

The Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowships support outstanding individuals—including lawyers, advocates, grassroots organizers, researchers, and others with unique perspectives—to undertake criminal justice reform projects at the local, state, and national levels. Projects may range from litigation to public education to coalition-building to grassroots mobilization to policy-driven research. Advocacy Fellowships are 18 months in duration, may be undertaken in conjunction with a host organization, and can begin in the spring or fall of 2016.

Individuals with projects that propose, as their primary purpose, the completion of books, print or radio journalism, documentary film or video, or other similar media should apply for the Soros Justice Media Fellowships [PDF].
There are two Advocacy Fellowship tracks:

- **Track I** is designed for people who are in the earlier stages of their careers in the field of criminal justice reform and who demonstrate the potential to develop into leaders in the field.

- **Track II** is aimed at more experienced individuals with a proven record of achievement and expertise in the field and who are proposing new, risky, untested, or unconventional but promising ideas and approaches related to one or more specific criminal justice reform issues.

This document contains general information about the Advocacy Fellowships, the types of awards we offer, eligibility requirements, our selection criteria and process, as well as the full application.

**PART I: GUIDELINES**

**Fellowship Projects**

**Our Broad Goals: Reduce Mass Incarceration, Challenge Extreme Punishment, and Promote Justice System Accountability**

The problems with the U.S. criminal justice system are well documented. Nationwide, over 1.5 million people are in prison. Almost a quarter of a million people are in local jails. The number of adults on probation or parole exceeds five million. The vast numbers of people who are incarcerated or otherwise under some form of correctional control is a by-product of policies and practices that privilege incapacitation over other responses to transgressions of the law, and reflect a culture of punishment that attaches increasingly harsh sanctions to a broad range of conduct.

This punitive culture now affects the youngest among us, through things like “zero tolerance” school disciplinary policies; and allows us to subject people with criminal records to lifetime restrictions on access to a host of life’s most basic necessities, like shelter, food, education. We stand alone among democratic nations in sentencing people under the age of 18 to life sentences. We have criminalized and over-incarcerated immigrant populations. And our use of the death penalty outpaces every other democratic society in the world.

Also well documented is how the costs of these policies and practices are borne most heavily by individuals and communities often pushed to the margins of American life: residents of low-income communities, people of color, immigrants, LGBTQ individuals, and people with mental illness and drug dependency. Moreover, the primary vehicles for resolving disputes and ensuring public safety—the courts and law enforcement—have done little to engender faith and trust among these same individuals and communities.

In our view, the far-reaching problems with the U.S. criminal justice system require similarly broad solutions that focus on three interrelated fronts: reducing mass incarceration and its attendant ills, challenging extreme punishment in its various incarnations, and promoting fairness and accountability in how justice is administered.
Specific Justice Fund Priorities

The broad goals of reducing mass incarceration, challenging extreme punishment and promoting justice system accountability are just that—broad. While there are countless critical issues that relate to these three goals, the Justice Fund’s overall work currently prioritizes a set of more specific and focused criminal justice reform issues that directly seek to:

- Reduce jail and prison populations
- Eliminate the so-called “collateral consequences” of criminal convictions, i.e. the ways in which people with a criminal record face barriers to employment, housing, education, and other life necessities and opportunities
- Abolish the death penalty
- End harsh treatment of youth in the justice system, with a particular focus on youth who are subject to policies, practices, and systems designed for adults, e.g. youth tried and sentenced as adults, youth placed on sex offense registries
- Promote police accountability, with a focus on combatting discriminatory policing
- Improve public defense services (although the Justice Fund is currently assessing its grantmaking strategies related to this priority in terms of its support to organizations, public defense reform remains a priority for purposes of fellowships to individuals)
- Foster new approaches to drug policy, with an emphasis on work that advances non-punitive responses to drug use and drug markets, and that supports health-centered approaches to serving populations currently targeted by punitive drug law enforcement.

Who and What We Are Looking For: Emerging Leaders or New Ways of Doing Things

At a minimum, fellowship projects must relate to one or more of the broad criminal justice reform goals referenced above (see “Our Broad Goals”): reducing mass incarceration, challenging extreme punishment, and promoting justice system accountability. However, beyond this basic threshold, we’re looking for proposals that reflect one of two things:

- Strong evidence that the applicant has the capacity to become a leader in the field of criminal justice reform;

  OR

- Strong evidence that the applicant puts forward a new, risky, untested, or unconventional but promising idea or approach related to one or more of the “Specific Justice Fund Priorities” listed above.
Our interest in emerging leaders stems from our view that the fellowships program—as evidenced by the kinds of people it has funded during its almost two decades of operation—is uniquely situated as a vehicle for seeding and supporting individuals who will have a long-term ability to get others to listen, to follow, and to take action; and who will become part of a growing network of fellows working on the full spectrum of issues that most directly implicate open society values.

Our interest in new, risky and unconventional ways of doing things is based on our belief that the fellowships can be a useful platform for supporting people whose work experiments and pushes boundaries, challenges convention, elaborates novel ways of approaching deeply entrenched and intractable problems, anticipates emerging issues, or seizes upon particular opportunities in creative ways; and that if these things are done well, people supported through the fellowships can inform the Justice Fund’s larger body of work, as well as the broader field of criminal justice reform.

**Strategies Supported by the Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowships and “Reform” Requirement**

Applicants may employ, either alone or in combination, any number of strategies to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in their projects. These strategies include but are not limited to:

- Impact litigation
- Public education
- Strategic communications
- Policy advocacy
- Coalition-building
- Grassroots organizing and mobilization
- Policy-driven research and analysis

Regardless of the strategy employed or the issue addressed, *all Advocacy Fellowship projects must, during the term of the fellowship itself, actively seek some measure of reform*. We generally define “reform” as a change to a policy or practice, whether formalized by law or not, that has a particular effect on individuals, families, or communities. Reform can promote or create good policies or practices, as well as change or mitigate the effects of bad ones. Moreover, reform should involve more than simply obtaining a specific result for a specific person; instead, groups of people defined by certain characteristics or circumstances should benefit from achieving a particular change.

This requirement means that there should be at least the theoretical possibility, based on your activities and actions during the fellowship, that the change you want to see will come to pass during the term of the fellowship itself. In other words, projects that involve only planning, conceptualizing, researching, strategizing, or otherwise “laying the groundwork” during the term of the fellowship are unlikely to fare well in our process.

*A note about fellowships for start-up organizations*: While the fellowships program does not have a policy against funding projects that involve an individual’s efforts to launch an organization, such proposals often face a particularly steep climb in our process—partly because of the “reform requirement” mentioned above, but also because applicants proposing
these types of projects often have a hard time demonstrating, within the confines of our application, the likelihood that the organization will, in fact, launch during the term of the fellowship (or soon thereafter) and that there’s a reasonable plan for sustaining the work.

**Intersectional Projects**

We recognize that criminal justice reform issues, whether related to our broad goals or more specific priorities, are exceptionally complex and involve an array of interrelated social, economic, political, and historical dynamics. We therefore encourage applications that demonstrate a clear understanding of the intersection of criminal justice issues with the particular needs of low-income communities; communities of color; immigrants; LGBTQ people; women and children; and those otherwise disproportionately affected by harsh or unfair criminal justice policies. We also welcome projects that cut across various criminal justice fields and related sectors, such as education, health and mental health, housing, and employment.

**Directly Affected Individuals**

We in particular welcome applications from individuals directly affected by, or with significant direct personal experience with, the policies, practices, and systems their projects seek to address. This includes, but is not limited to, applicants who have themselves been incarcerated; applicants who have a family member or loved one who has been incarcerated and whose fellowship project emerges from that experience; and survivors of violence and crime. It also includes people with deep ties and connections to the communities or constituencies that are the focus of their projects.

**Not Sure if Your Project Fits? Submit an Email Inquiry**

Applicants who are uncertain whether some aspect of their proposed project fits within the parameters of the fellowships program guidelines or whether the project is otherwise likely to be of interest to the program may submit an email inquiry before proceeding with the full online application process. The email should provide a brief (no more than 500 words) description of the proposed project, as well as some background information on the applicant, and should be sent to: [sorosjusticefellowships@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:sorosjusticefellowships@opensocietyfoundations.org).

The fellowships program will do its best to respond to all email inquiries within a week of their receipt (however, please note that, because of staff commitments over the summer, emails sent before August 11 are likely to receive a significantly more delayed response). In all cases, those who submit email inquiries but do not receive a timely response will have to make their own determination of whether the proposed project fits within the program guidelines.

**Awards**

Individuals can apply for one of two awards, depending on the applicant’s level of experience. During the term of their fellowships, fellows may not receive any funds from the Open Society Foundations beyond what is outlined below. However, fellows are welcome to supplement their fellowship awards with funds from other sources.
Advocacy Track I:

- Stipend of $75,000 ($50,000 for the first year; $25,000 for the remaining six months);
- Up to $6,000 for student loan repayment assistance;
- $3,750 for health insurance;
- $1,000 for professional development;
- Funds to attend fellowship-related gatherings; and
- Access to ongoing technical assistance resources.

Advocacy Track II:

- Stipend of $105,000 ($70,000 for the first year, $35,000 for the remaining six months);
- $3,750 for health insurance;
- Funds to attend fellowship-related gatherings; and
- Access to ongoing technical assistance resources.

Eligibility

Unless indicated otherwise, all eligibility requirements apply to both Advocacy Tracks.

Advocacy Track I:

- Advocacy Track I applicants must have at least two (2) years of relevant advocacy experience, which may include: full-time and part-time employment; paid or unpaid internships; longer-term experience as an advocate, organizer or researcher; or other pertinent experience (e.g. advocacy while incarcerated).

- Advocacy Track I aims to identify and support emerging leaders in the field of criminal justice reform. It is intended for advocates at a range of phases in their careers, including but not limited to: people just entering the field following post-graduate education; advocates with a few years of work experience; and those beginning to work on criminal justice reform issues after a career in another field or after some other life experience. Advocacy Track I applicants should have the skill, talent, tenacity, and vision needed to accomplish their project objectives; and should demonstrate the desire and capacity to become a leader in the field of criminal justice reform.

- Advocacy Track I projects need not—although they can—address one or more the specific criminal justice reform priorities identified above (see “Justice Fund Priorities” above); it is sufficient for these projects to address an issue that relates to one or more of our broad goals of reducing mass incarceration, challenging extreme punishment, and promoting system accountability (see “Our Broad Goals” above). Nor must these projects involve a promising approach or idea that is “new, risky, untested, or unconventional” (although, again, they can).

Advocacy Track II:

- Advocacy Track II applicants must have at least ten (10) years of relevant advocacy experience.
Advocacy Track II is designed for seasoned, established, and accomplished leaders and experts in the field—ideally people who have truly distinguished themselves and who have shown, over the long-term, an exemplary record of achievement, as evidenced by, among other things: senior leadership positions held in organizations, campaigns, or initiatives; status as a recognized expert by others in the field; or extensive work history or work product that has helped to secure critical policy or advocacy gains. Advocacy Track II is for those applicants with the kind of stature, experience, and capacity necessary to have a meaningful impact on an important criminal justice reform issue.

- Advocacy Track II applicants must put forth projects that directly and explicitly address one or more of the Justice Fund’s specific priorities; and must involve work that represents a new, risky, untested, or unconventional but promising idea or approach.

**Education**

Applicants must have at least a high school diploma or equivalent.

**Time Commitment**

Fellowships are 18 months in duration and should begin in the spring or fall of 2016. Applicants must be able to devote at least 35 hours per week to the project if awarded a fellowship; and the project must be the applicant’s only full-time work during the course of the fellowship. Fellows cannot be full-time students during their fellowships. In addition, if awarded a fellowship, applicants must be available to attend the New Fellows Orientation (tentatively set for the spring of 2016 in New York City, with exact dates to be announced) and the annual Soros Justice Fellowships conference (tentatively set for either the summer or fall of 2016, with exact dates and location to be announced).

**Host Organization**

Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to secure a host organization. See below for further discussion of host organization criteria and considerations.

**Advisory Board**

Advocacy Fellowship applicants must assemble an advisory board for the project. See below for further discussion of advisory board criteria and considerations.

**Joint Applications**

Under the Advocacy Fellowship category, the fellowships program does not allow multiple individuals to apply jointly for a single Advocacy Fellowship.

**Enrollment in an Academic Institution**

The fellowships program does not fund enrollment for degree or non-degree study at academic institutions, including dissertation research. Also, as indicated in “Time Commitment” above, fellows cannot be full-time students during their fellowships.
Past Soros Justice Fellowship Recipients

Past recipients of a Soros Justice Fellowship (regardless of category, e.g. Advocacy, Senior, Postgraduate, Media) are not eligible to apply.

Projects Based Outside the United States

Applicants may be based outside the United States, provided their work directly pertains to a U.S. criminal justice issue.

Lobbying

Projects that include lobbying activities will not be funded. Please carefully review the Tax Law Lobbying Rules before submitting an application. If awarded a fellowship, applicants are required to attend a training session on the tax law lobbying rules, conducted by the Open Society Foundations’ General Counsel’s Office; and must agree to refrain from engaging in restricted lobbying activities during the term of the fellowship.

Host Organizations and Advisory Boards

Host Organization

Advocacy Fellowship applicants are encouraged, but not required, to secure a host organization. Host organizations—which can be advocacy or community groups, scholarly or research institutions, government agencies, or other nonprofit organizations or associations—can provide access to resources such as space, technology, and networks, as well as mentoring and guidance. They can also enhance the credibility and raise the profile of the project. The fellowships program encourages host organizations to provide in-kind contributions such as office space and necessary overhead. Host organizations may also augment the stipend award and provide other benefits. The fellowships program does not provide the host organization with supplemental funds.

If awarded a fellowship, applicants with host organizations can choose to receive grant payments directly or have some (or all) of the grant payments passed through the host. Under the latter arrangement, the host must have the appropriate organizational status to be able to receive grant payments (e.g. 501(c)(3) or supported by a designated fiscal agent) and must agree that the grant payments are made to the host on the fellow’s behalf.

Projects proposed in conjunction with host organizations are evaluated in part on the extent to which the host organization is the right fit for the project and the applicant. However, if awarded a fellowship, the individual applicant ultimately is responsible for the work; and the fellowship “attaches” to the individual, not the host organization. The individual has the right, with the prior approval of the fellowships program, to take the fellowship to another host or choose to do the work without a host organization.

Applicants can, at the time of the application, be employed by the same organization that would serve as their fellowship host organization. However, such arrangements typically raise questions about whether the fellowship is simply intended to replace organizational resources
that otherwise would or should support their work, i.e. to fund existing staff positions. Accordingly, applicants in this situation must convincingly demonstrate that the work they’ll be undertaking as part of the fellowship is not work that they had already been doing or would otherwise be tasked with.

Applicants choosing not to partner with a host organization must convincingly articulate how they will achieve the project goals without the infrastructure and support of an established organization or institutional base.

**Advisory Board**

Regardless of whether they partner with a host organization, Advocacy Fellowship applicants must assemble an advisory board for the project. The advisory board must be comprised of a minimum of three (3) individuals who can lend guidance and expertise to the project.

This board should not exist in name only. Rather, it should include individuals upon whom the fellow will rely in concrete and tangible ways over the course of the fellowship; and who will commit to playing an active role in helping the fellow achieve the project objectives. We leave it up to the applicant to determine the composition of the board itself as well as the methods and frequency for drawing upon the board’s expertise.

**Selection Criteria and Process**

Applications will be evaluated on the extent to which the applicant possesses the vision, drive, and skills required to create and sustain a project that will advance one or more of the Open Society Foundations’ U.S. criminal justice reform goals or priorities. A reading committee consisting of Open Society Foundations staff and outside experts in the field will review proposals and nominate between 28 – 40 Advocacy and Media Fellowship finalists. The finalists will be invited to interview with a selection committee consisting of Open Society Foundations staff and outside experts. From the pool of finalists, 13 – 15 individuals will be awarded fellowships.

Under certain circumstances, fellowships program staff may, at different points in the selection process, reach out to specific candidates by phone or email to get answers to questions that may help us determine whether to select someone as a finalist or to award a fellowship.

The fellowships program reserves the right, at any point in the selection process, to request that applicants have their applications considered under a different fellowship category (Media vs. Advocacy) or track (Track I vs. Track II). In these cases, we will notify the affected applicant as soon as possible during the selection process.

In evaluating applications, the program will consider:

**Project Need:**

- Is the need the project proposes to address relevant (i.e. it addresses, at a minimum, one of the broad goals of reducing mass incarceration, challenging extreme punishment, or promoting justice system accountability)?
• Is it important (e.g. large numbers of people are affected by the problem or issue; it involves an issue that is commonly unaddressed; it is an issue of manifest injustice)?

**Project Approach:**

• *If addressing one of our specific criminal justice priorities,* does it constitute a new, risky, untested, or unconventional but promising way of taking on the identified problem (e.g. the application makes a solid showing for how the work experiments and pushes boundaries, challenges convention, elaborates novel ways of approaching a long-standing problem, anticipates an emerging issue, or creatively seizes upon a particular opportunity)?

• Is it detailed and sound (i.e. clearly and thoroughly maps out the project’s activities, and those activities make practical and strategic sense)?

• Is there a good fit with the host organization (i.e. the organization’s mission and existing work complement the project; the organization has the resources to supervise and guide the applicant’s work; if the applicant does not propose working with a host organization, the applicant makes a compelling case for how she or he will work independently without the support or infrastructure of an organization)?

• Does the advisory board add real value to the project (e.g. the individuals on the board can fill obvious gaps in the applicant’s expertise, offer needed support and strategic advice, and help the applicant forge necessary connections with other individuals, organizations, and entities; and the applicant has laid out a thoughtful plan for engaging with the board members)?

**Project Goals, Objectives, and Activities:**

• Are the project’s goals, objectives, and activities measurable and realistic (i.e. the applicant will be able to determine if they have been accomplished; they are reasonable, both in terms of the timeline proposed and in terms of their general attainability)?

• Are they sufficiently “impactful” (i.e. if attained, the project’s goals and objectives are likely to result in a meaningful qualitative or quantitative impact)?

**Applicant:**

• *If applying under Track I,* are there strong signs that the applicant has the desire and capacity to, among other things: become an expert on an issue; lead a major initiative, campaign, project, or organization; or move policymakers, attract resources, and garner media attention on a sustained basis? In other words, is this the kind of person who will, over the long-term, get people to listen, to follow, and to take action?

• *If applying under Track II,* has the applicant shown, over the long-term, an exemplary record of achievement, as evidenced by, among other things: senior leadership positions held in organizations, campaigns, or initiatives; status as a recognized expert
by others in the field; or extensive work history or work product that has helped to secure critical policy or advocacy gains?

• Is there an appropriate and convincing fit between the applicant’s experiences, skills and interests and what they hope to accomplish through the fellowship project (i.e. is this the right person to carry out this particular project)?

PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE FOR APPLICATION
PART II: APPLICATION

Application Information

The application deadline is October 21, 2015 (11:59 p.m. EST). Incomplete applications will not be given full consideration.

Online Submission

Applications must be submitted at http://sorosjusticefellowships.submittable.com/submit. The online system will begin accepting applications on August 11, 2015.

On the online system, applicants will have to provide basic contact information and register with the system. Once registered, applicants will be able to proceed to the application itself. All communications with applicants will be sent to the email used to register with the online system, so applicants should ensure that emails from us do not end up in their “Junk Mail” folder.

Content of Complete Applications

Complete applications consist of a number of documents that must be uploaded to the online application system: Resume, Proposal, Letters of Recommendation, and Host Commitment Letter (if applicable). Below is more information about these documents:

- **RESUME** of no more than three (3) pages.

- Single-spaced **PROPOSAL** of no more than 3000 words (approximately six pages in 12-point font with one-inch margins) containing responses to the eight (8) questions listed below in order, with the headings as listed below, i.e. Project Explanation, Project Goals, etc.:

  Question 1 (Project Explanation): “Provide a clear, detailed, and focused explanation of the project, including the change you hope to achieve through your work, the need for the project (where appropriate, you should use statistics, stories, or other types of information to explain the need for the project), a description of the people or communities affected by the issue the project seeks to address, and what you propose to do.”

  Regarding projects with a local or statewide focus, we typically find that the strongest proposals with this type of orientation, in addition to making the case for why the work is needed in that place, also make the case for why the project’s geographic focus makes sense in light of the fact that many other locales may face similar problems. In other words, why is an investment in this particular place worthwhile, given that we receive proposals from people to do work in places all over the country? This could include not only the manifest need, given the relative seriousness of a problem, but also lessons and potential gains that work in one place could have for other places.
Question 2 (U.S. Criminal Justice Goals or Priorities): “Explain how the project is expected to advance an issue (or set of issues) related to the Open Society Foundations’ U.S. criminal justice reform goals or priorities.”

All applicants should demonstrate how their project fits in with, builds on, departs from, or otherwise relates to the work that others have done or are doing. In other words, the proposal should reflect a thorough understanding of the field in which the project would be operating.

Question 3 (Project Goals, Objectives, and Activities): “Explain your project goals, objectives, and activities. Also, you should provide some indication of how you will determine the impact of your work (we are not asking for a comprehensive evaluation plan; rather, we simply want to see that you’ve given some thought to whether—and how—you’d know if your work was having its desired effect).”

While not required, we recommend that you use the outline format below as a way to structure your response to this question. Please refer to the definitions below when completing this section of the proposal.

Our intention here is not to see whether you are able to fit your project goals, objectives, and activities into our outline format; nor is it to have you become bogged down by our definitions. Rather, we simply want to see what specific activities you’ll undertake during the fellowship, the objectives those activities hope to achieve, and how your objectives relate to a larger goal. In other words, we want to see how you expect to get from point A to point B (and from point B to point C).

Outline Format (the number of goals, objectives, and activities below are for purposes of illustration only; you should describe as many goals and related objectives and activities as are appropriate for your project):

A. Goal 1
   a. Objective 1
      i. Activity 1
      ii. Activity 2
      iii. Activity 3
   b. Objective 2
      i. Activity 1
      ii. Activity 2
   c. Objective 3
      i. Activity 1
      ii. Activity 2

Definitions:

“Goal” – Broadly stated, the change you want to see (this may or may not be achievable during the 18 months of the fellowship; and should not be overly general or entirely aspirational).
EXAMPLE: “End discrimination in sentencing in death penalty cases.”

“Objective” – More concrete and defined plan of action designed to contribute to the achievement of your goal (should be achievable during the 18 months of your fellowship).

EXAMPLES: “Educate policymakers about prosecutorial misconduct through public education, media outreach, and targeted advocacy.” “Engage the public in a discussion of racial discrimination in capital sentencing.” “Mobilize directly-affected individuals and communities, in an effort to build grassroots leadership on the issue.”

“Activity” – Specific steps you will take to achieve each stated objective (i.e. the actual work you will be engaged in on a day-to-day basis during the fellowship). Certain activities can relate to multiple objectives.

EXAMPLES: “Produce and disseminate report.” “Conduct press events.” “Develop dedicated web-based social media tools.” “Contact and meet with community leaders to plan town hall meeting.” “Develop leadership training for directly-affected community members.” “Recruit local individuals and groups interested in forming a coalition to push reform agenda around capital sentencing.”

Question 4 (Host Organization): “Explain how the host organization’s mission and existing work complement your project, and how the host organization will support the project. If you are not proposing to work with a host organization, please explain why the project does not require the infrastructure and support of an institutional base or organizational home.”

Question 5 (Advisory Board): “Describe the advisory board you will assemble for the project, what each member will contribute to your board and your project, and your plan for drawing upon the support, guidance, and expertise of each of the members.”

While we do not require that you obtain firm commitments from advisory board members by the time you submit your application, the more detail and information you are able to provide (e.g. name, affiliation, expertise, contribution, etc.), the better. At a minimum, you should identify the types of people you will seek as advisors.

Question 6 (Personal Experiences, Skills, and Attributes): “Explain how, based on your experiences (personal, professional, academic, etc.), skills and attributes, you are the right person to carry out this particular project, as well as how you see this fellowship project fitting into your personal or professional trajectory or future plans.”

If you are an Advocacy Track II applicant, please be sure to describe the specific accomplishments and experiences that make you qualified for that track (see “Eligibility—Advocacy Track II” above for more detail on the expectations for Advocacy Track II applicants).
Question 7 (Timeline): “Lay out a timeline that sets forth the project’s specific activities and reflects all phases of the project and the time you will allocate to meet your objectives (your timeline should be consistent with your project activities, see Question 3 above; if appropriate, e.g. for space considerations, you may incorporate your timeline into your response to Question 3).”

Question 8 (Time Commitment): “Describe any non-fellowship work responsibilities (e.g. consulting, hourly project-based work, etc.) or educational commitments (e.g. classes for a post-secondary degree) that you expect to have during the course of your fellowship, including the approximate time to be devoted to these responsibilities or commitments.”

- **Two (2) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION** from supervisors or close colleagues. The letters should address your talent, professionalism, and demonstrated ability to work independently on long-term, in-depth projects; as well as any other matter that may be relevant to our assessment of you or your project. Letters should not be more than two (2) pages in length. We encourage you to share your proposal narrative and the program's selection criteria (see “Selection Criteria and Process” above) with those who write on your behalf.

  If those writing your letters of recommendation prefer to transmit their letters under separate cover (as opposed to having you upload the letters), the letters can be emailed to Christina Voight at christina.voight@opensocietyfoundations.org with the following subject line: “Soros Justice Fellowships Letter of Recommendation for [applicant’s name].” Any letters emailed to Christina Voight must be received by the application deadline.

- **HOST COMMITMENT LETTER** (not applicable if applicant chooses to proceed without a host). The letter should be on the organization’s letterhead and written by a senior staff member of the organization or someone otherwise authorized to commit the organization to serving as a host for the project. The letter should describe the following: host organization’s mission and existing work; how the proposed project fits with the organization’s mission and existing work; support provided to the applicant, if awarded a fellowship (e.g. supervision, access to networks, guidance, etc.); in-kind contributions provided (e.g. office space; computer, phone and facsimile access; administrative support); and any other resources provided to the fellow (e.g. supplemental funds).

The letter must also include a confirmation that the proposed project will not duplicate the host organization’s existing efforts and that fellowship funding will not be used to replace, supplant or supplement funding for activities or projects already being, or reasonably expected to be, carried out by the host organization.
Application and Selection Timeline

Application Deadline: **October 21, 2015 (11:59 p.m. EST)**

Finalists Notified: Early- to mid-December 2015 (all applicants will be notified via email whether they have been selected as a finalist)

Finalist Interviews: Mid- to late-January 2016 (all finalist interviews will be held on the same day, to be determined, at the Open Society Foundations offices in New York City)

Selected Fellows Notified: February 2016

Projects Begin: Spring or fall 2016