

## Summer 2015 Student Socio-legal Conference/Seminar Attendee Recommendations

Kenyon's Summer Legal Scholars Program provides a select group of students with opportunities to conduct original research under the mentorship of a faculty sponsor. Successful applicants come from a wide range of majors, although usually within the humanities and social sciences disciplines. As a program that promotes undergraduate research, most participants have completed a course in research methodology or otherwise have demonstrated some experience engaged in doing comprehensive research tasks. As an interdisciplinary program, Kenyon's Law & Society program expects enrollees to bring to the study of law a foundation or grounding in a "discipline," something ordinarily achieved by their sophomore year or later. Thus, historically, the vast majority of students in the Summer Legal Scholars program have been accepted for research fellowships during the summers between their junior and senior years. Research undertaken in the summer quite often serves as the basis for further work done as a part of departmental honors or senior exercises. The opportunity is not available to students after they have graduated. While there is no prescribed minimum grade point average, the selection committee has tended to look favorably upon those with records of strong academic performance as an indicator of preparedness for doing challenging research in close collaboration with their faculty mentors.

Provosts and deans from member institutions of the Five Colleges of Ohio who might wish or require guidance in selecting students for participation in the Summer Student Socio-legal Conference and Seminar are encouraged to identify and refer students that they and the students' faculty recommenders feel have a strong interest in the study of the operation of law in society (not necessarily "prelaw" in the career or vocational sense), would be both prepared and inclined to engage the readings as well as the other participants and faculty presenters in thoughtful discussion, and for whom the seminar would be a meaningful intellectual experience. Diverse backgrounds and academic perspectives are important components of inclusive excellence and enhance the examination of the operation of law in an increasingly multicultural America. Students selected must be available for the duration of the conference and commit to attending for the entire event.