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AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2016 DOCTORAL FELLOWS

CHICAGO, April 20, 2016 — The [American Bar Foundation](http://americanbarfoundation.org) (ABF) has awarded doctoral fellowships to [three scholars](#) who will be in residence at the ABF beginning September 2016. The ABF, in collaboration with the [Law and Society Association](#) (LSA), aims to develop the next generation of scholars doing original and significant research on law, the legal profession, and legal institutions. Each year, two fellowships are awarded under the [Law and Social Science Dissertation Fellowship and Mentoring Program](#) (LSS Fellowship), co-sponsored by the LSA, ABF, and [National Science Foundation](#) (NSF). A third doctoral fellowship is awarded under the sole sponsorship of the ABF. Among a highly competitive application pool, [Ayobami Laniyonu](#), and [Jeffrey Omari](#) were selected as [2016-18 LSS Doctoral Fellows](#), and [Emma Shakeshaft](#) was selected as the 2016 ABF Doctoral Fellow.

The LSS Fellowship is a collaborative effort of the LSA and the ABF, with primary funding from the [Law and Social Sciences Program](#) of the NSF. It is a two-year program and is open to third, fourth, and fifth year graduate students whose research interests include law and inequality, as well as interdisciplinary and humanities students pursuing empirically-based social science dissertations. LSS Fellows participate in the intellectual life of the ABF, including participation in a weekly seminar series. In addition, LSS Fellows work closely with an LSA mentor-at-large and a mentor at the ABF.

Ayobami Laniyonu, LSS Doctoral Fellow, is a Ph.D. candidate in the [Department of Political Science](#) at the [University of California, Los Angeles](#) (UCLA). His research interests center around state practices of social control and political behavior. He primarily focuses on the political determinates and outcomes of criminal justice policies. Laniyonu's dissertation explores the impact that policing practices and strategies have on political participation.

Jeffrey Omari, LSS Doctoral Fellow, is a Ph.D. candidate in the [Anthropology Department](#) at the [University of California, Santa Cruz](#) (UCSC). He holds a J.D. from the [University of Illinois College of Law](#). His research focuses on the political, legal, and cultural implications of internet governance in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His dissertation will use ethnographic research to examine how governmental policies intended to expand internet inclusion have redefined the relationship between the Brazilian state and Rio's urban poor communities.

The [ABF Doctoral Fellowship](#) is a one-year program open to Ph.D. candidates pursuing research in the general area of socio-legal studies. Diverse candidates are especially encouraged to seek this opportunity.

Emma Shakeshaft, the 2016 ABF Doctoral Fellow, is a Ph.D. candidate in [Sociology](#) at the [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#). Her research examines the legal interpretations and procedures of judges, lawyers, and governmental actors by analyzing resource allocation and case outcomes based on gender, ethnicity, and race. Her dissertation focuses on transracial adoption case law, human trafficking case law, and data on nonimmigrant visas for victims of criminal activity and human trafficking. Shakeshaft received her J.D. from the [University of Wisconsin Law School](#) and is a member of the [State Bar of Wisconsin](#).

"We are looking forward to welcoming a new cohort of doctoral fellows to the ABF this fall," said [Ajay Mehrotra](#), ABF Director and member of both the LSS and ABF Fellowship selection committees. "Next year's group of outstanding, advanced graduate students are sure to continue the ABF's longstanding tradition of being one of the leading incubators of the next generation of scholars working at the intersection of law and social science."

[Past LSS and ABF Doctoral Fellows](#) have gone on to promising careers as tenured professors, legal professionals, and social science researchers. Qualified doctoral students interested in applying for future LSS and ABF Doctoral Fellowships can learn more about each fellowship and the application requirements on the ABF [website](#).

The [American Bar Foundation](#) is the nation's leading research institute for the empirical study of law. An independent, nonprofit organization for more than 60 years, The American Bar Foundation's mission is to serve the legal profession, the public, and the academy through empirical research, publications, and programs that advance justice and the understanding of law and its impact on society. The ABF's primary funding is provided by the [American Bar Endowment](#) and [The Fellows of The American Bar Foundation](#).

The [Law and Society Association](#) is an interdisciplinary scholarly organization committed to social scientific, interpretive, and historical analyses of law across multiple social contexts.

The [National Science Foundation](#) is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense ..." and is the funding source for approximately 24 percent of all federally supported basic research conducted by America's colleges and universities.

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