Join a Vibrant Community of Researchers at the American Bar Foundation!



The American Bar Foundation (ABF) is looking to strengthen its full-time residential research faculty with one or more early to mid-career scholars with a PhD and/or JD with a capacity to conduct research on sociolegal issues.

We are a world-renowned research institute committed to the study of law, legal institutions, and legal processes. Our Chicago-based faculty includes leading scholars in sociology, anthropology, political science, economics, history, psychology, and law. Our researchers have included MacArthur Fellows, a Nobel Laureate, and winners of the Kalven and Stockholm Prizes. In the current hiring cycle, we welcome applicants from all social science disciplines, methodological and theoretical approaches, and research domains.

High Degree of Autonomy and Support to Develop your Research

Set your research agenda and conduct empirical research with generous institutional support. At our research-focused institution, enjoy a workload that centers on your scholarship, allowing you to advance your contributions to the field.

Inclusive Community Committed to Innovation through Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Join a welcoming environment where collaboration is valued. We embrace a wide range of perspectives and experiences, enriching our community and our research. We host in-house workshops and speaker series to facilitate interdisciplinary interactions that spark innovation.

Work in Downtown Chicago in a University Campus Setting

Work in the lively Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago on Northwestern University's downtown campus with access to restaurants, museums, and cultural events and landmarks.

Local and Global Network

Engage with law and society scholars worldwide. Alongside our Research Professors, the ABF hosts visiting scholars, doctoral and postdoctoral fellows, and undergraduate research fellows. Our extensive alumni network reaches around the world, and our network of Fellows connects your academic work with 15,000+ on-the-ground legal practitioners.

Competitive Salary and Benefits

Enjoy a competitive salary and benefits as a full-time employee of the ABF, along with generous research support.







Join Us!

Research Professor positions will be open in August with applications due September 15th.

Inquiries can be directed to careers@abfn.org.



"The ABF is a really unique institution that provides the opportunity to do in-depth and sustained, on-the-ground research that would be very difficult to pull off in a normal academic position."

—Susan Shapiro, ABF Research Professor Emerita

